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OPINION METER

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Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

More Suspects

Police named 100 government militiamen as additional suspects in the Philippines' worst political massacre.

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New Baby

Quarterback Tom Brady and supermodel Gisele Bundchen have welcomed a baby boy.

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NMC students' survey projected Heinz win in general polls. **PAGE 5**

New name unveiled for retail giant: Joeten Superstore. **PAGE 18**

Ombudsman to count ALIEN WORKERS

All alien workers told to visit Federal Ombudsman

Pam Brown

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

After going through long lines for the Department of Labor's "umbrella permits" comes another requirement for thousands of alien workers to line up, this time at the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for what it describes as an "accounting process."

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

United States Mint deputy director Andy Brunhart, right, hands out CNMI commemorative quarter-dollar coins to young students at the American Memorial Park in Garapan yesterday morning. Inset shows Brunhart presenting Gov. Benigno R. Fitial with the stamped coins during the launch that drew at least 1,000 children and adults.

76 million NMI quarters now in circulation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A total of 76 million Northern Mariana Islands quarter coins will now circulate in the U.S. economy with the official launching of the new coin yesterday at the American Memorial Park.

U.S. Mint Deputy Director Andrew D. Brunhart and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial hosted the event that saw the attendance of

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Changes ahead in Cabinet and political appointees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday that he is not satisfied with the performance of all his Cabinet members and other political appointees, and heads will roll when he assumes his second term in office in January 2010.

"There will be changes in the Cabinet, and some changes in political appointees," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the launch of the CNMI's commemorative quarter coin at the American Memorial Park yesterday morning.

Fitial, who is the second gov-

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DUE TO 'FLAWED' LOCAL LAW

House panel urges MPLT: Don't OK $1M Tinian loan

By HAIDEE EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Committee on Natural Resources chair Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) urged the Marianas Public Land Trust "not to approve" Tinian's $1 million loan application based on a local law that he describes as "flawed" and unconstitutional, among other things.

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'Labor will continue worker repatriation'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor will continue to repatriate alien workers whose contracts have expired or who want to go home for other reasons, according to Labor deputy secretary Cinta M. Kaipat.

Kaipat discussed Labor's post-federalization role during yesterday's conference, sponsored by the Society for Human Resource Management-CNMI Chapter, at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

Kaipat pointed out that repatriation is separate from deportation.

"Repatriation has always been a voluntary process. The Labor Department gets a repatriation ticket from the last employer of record and the worker departs voluntarily. We will continue that," she said.

For now, she said, there is no federal permitting program, and Labor functions exactly as it did before with the exception of entry and deportation functions. The CNMI's immigration system fell under the purview of the federal government beginning Nov. 28, 2009.

Kaipat said that Labor no longer provides the CNMI Immigration Division with its approval for the entry of new workers as it did under the old system.

The entry of new workers, Kaipat said, is now the province of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and will start once the new regulations are in place.

She said Labor no longer provides the CNMI Immigration Division with the names of foreign workers who fail to comply with repatriation orders.

The deportation of workers is now the job of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

ICE, Kaipat said, will detail illegal aliens in space they will rent from the CNMI Department of Corrections.

"They have a new Immigration Court in place, which rules on deportations," she added.

For the next two years, Kaipat said, all current CNMI-issued permits and CNMI-approved labor contracts remain in place and will be enforced.

Under Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law, all CNMI-issued worker permits will honored for up to two years or until Nov. 27, 2011.

For that reason, Kaipat said, Labor issued the "umbrella permits" to all workers and immediate relatives for the full two-year period.

With respect to employers who have entered into two-year contracts and have paid the fees in connection with those contracts, Kaipat said under the U.S. Constitution, those existing contracts cannot be impaired by new federal regulations.

"No one who has a CNMI-issued permit or contract needs any federal permit or contract during this initial two-year period. During this time, the Commonwealth will seek to have the federalization law changed by Congress," she said.

Since CNMI labor law remains in place—except for entry and deportation functions—all employers and alien workers are required to comply with CNMI labor laws for the entire federalization transition period and beyond, Kaipat said.

She said employers must pay for the medical expenses of their alien workers, and must provide repatriation tickets.

Employers, she said, must provide bonding for wages, medical expenses, and repatriation expenses.

"The requirements with respect to deductions from wages remain in place. The requirements with respect to hiring U.S. citizens remain in place," Kaipat added.

The CNMI labor system, she said, will operate in parallel with the federal system, just as there are parallel systems in the United States.

Kaipat cited as an example the federal minimum wage that applies to some businesses that are in interstate commerce and the CNMI minimum wage that applies to businesses that are entirely local. She said there are federal health and safety laws, and there are Commonwealth health and safety requirements.

"I am confident that we will have a good working relationship between the federal and CNMI worker programs," Kaipat said.

The federal program, she said, is focused on qualifications to enter, and the CNMI is focused on fair terms and conditions in the workplace.

"Because the federal program is designed to reduce the foreign workforce to zero by 2014, I do not anticipate that there will be many workers entering," Kaipat said.

She said some specialty occupations will come in, but for the most part, the workforce is already here.

The CNMI, Kaipat added, will be managing the workforce that's already here.

Kaipat later responded to individual questions raised by conference participants, mosly about the "umbrella permits."

Bail reduced for 2 men in rape case

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry Inos reduced yesterday the bail imposed on two men who allegedly raped an intoxicated woman at a cemetery on Tinian.

Bail for Joseph Ray Arriola Jr. and Kurt B. King is now at $15,000 cash or property bond, from the initial $25,000 cash. The judge granted third-party custodians for the two and set many conditions.

The arraignment was set for Jan. 8, 2010, at the Tinian Superior Court.

Arriola, 20, and King, 29, were arrested Tuesday for allegedly raping a woman in the early morning hours of Saturday.

After a drinking session at a birthday party and a visit to a bar, the defendants allegedly grabbed the victim from a car and brought her to the cemetery where they raped her. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Nearly 6K inoculated with H1N1 vaccines

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Health disclosed yesterday that nearly 6,000 individuals in the CNMI, mostly children, have been inoculated with the H1N1 vaccines.

As of last week, a total of 3,556 elementary students in both private and public schools were provided the free vaccines, according to John Tagabuel, acting deputy secretary of Public Health. In addition, he said, private health providers and outreach programs, including the Head Start program, recorded 2,135 inoculations.

The vaccinations were conducted in 10 private and public schools, seven Head Start centers, five private providers, eight public providers, and two outreach programs.

The CNMI expects to get about 56,000 doses of the H1N1 vaccines. So far, it has received 16,000 doses, both actual shots and flu mists.

Mariana Coats, the Division of Public Health immunization manager, said they have over 10,000 vaccine doses at present, which they will continue to provide to students and those in the priority groups such as pregnant women, medical providers, and persons with chronic illnesses and prone to contract the virus. Once done with those in the priority groups, doses will be given out to community members who want to avail of the free service.

Next week, the CNMI expect the delivery of another 4,000 vaccine doses.

Health officials continue to see signs of the virus' presence in the community but DPH still reports zero H1N1-related deaths, unlike Guam, which has had two deaths already.

No one is being treated at the hospital right now for H1N1, they added.

Tagabuel also disclosed that due to a miscommunication between some children's parents and medical staffers, two children were given two doses of the flu shots. However, health officials said there is nothing to worry about because there's no such thing as an "overdose" of the H1N1 vaccine.

Today, students at three schools will be vaccinated: Chacha Oceanview, Hopwood Junior High, and Tinian Elementary School.

On Dec. 14–15, students of Grace Christian Academy, Mount Carmel School, Saipan International School, Calvary Christian Academy, Ladera International School, Marianas Baptist Academy, Saipan Community School, and Rota Junior High will get the vaccines.

On Dec. 16, public health representatives will be at Marianas High School and Rota High School while Kagman High School students will get theirs on Dec. 17.

Saipan Southern High, Tinian Jr. and High Schools, Tinian High, and St. Joseph School on Tinian and Tinian-GCA are slated to receive the vaccines on Dec. 18–Dec. 23.

Earthquake hits Saipan—EMO

The seismograph equipment at the Emergency Management Office on Capital Hill recorded an earthquake at 12:22pm yesterday.

EMO said the quake's epicenter could not be determined initially as only one station recorded the earthquake and it was in the vicinity of the Marianas Islands, Saipan region. "Some people mentioned that they heard a loud explosion, followed by the earthquake and some said they felt the earthquake. The EMO is doing its best to investigate what caused this explosion and earthquake," EMO said.

Based on all available data, a destructive Pacific-wide tsunami was not expected and there was no tsunami threat to the Marianas, EMO added. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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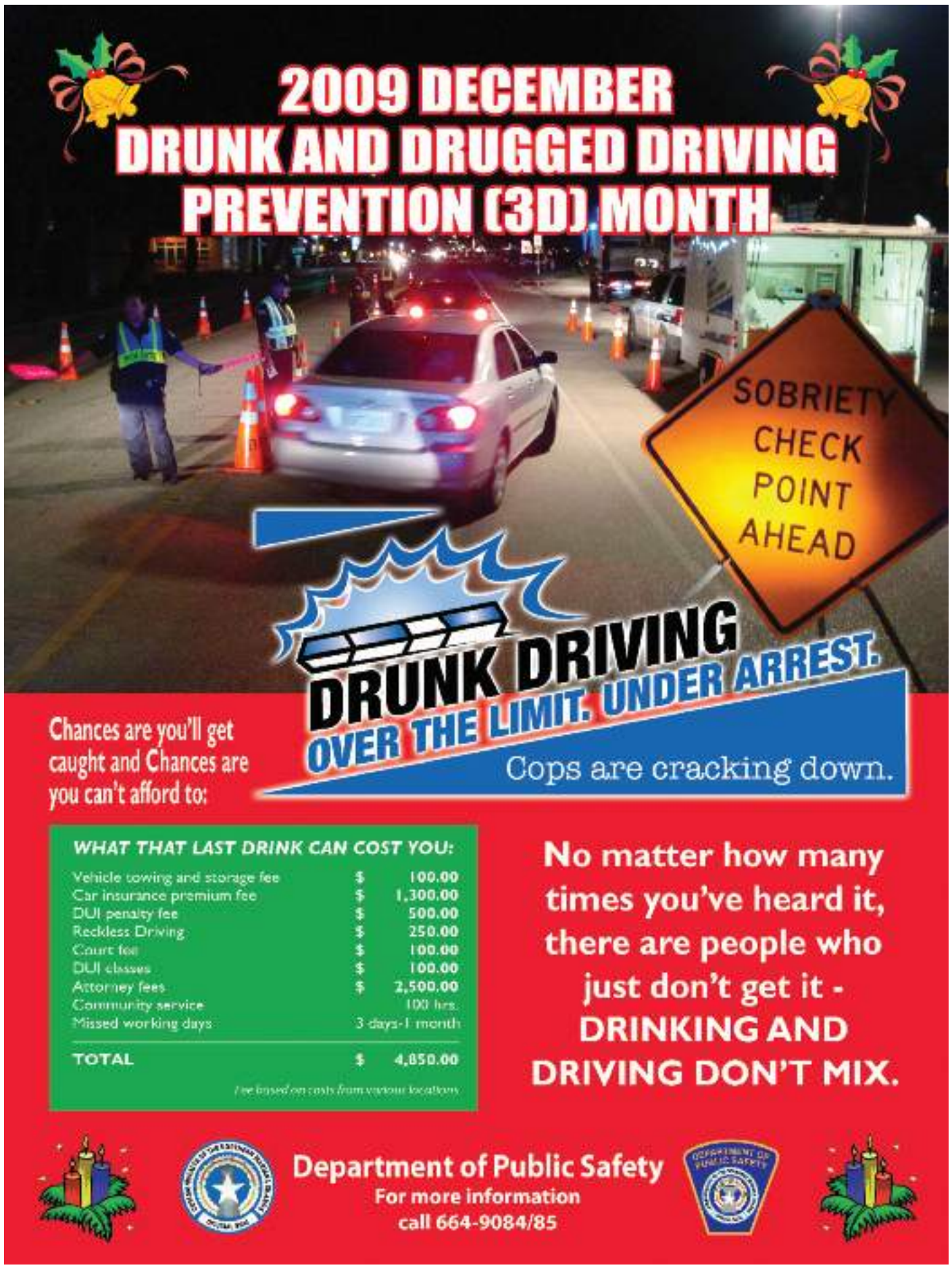
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CUC taking time to beat federal deadlines

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. told lawmakers yesterday that it will be able to submit a complete interim financial plan and an organizational evaluation and reorganization plan, among other things, by Dec. 31, even as the $630,000 in penalties as of Oct. 16 continue to grow for non-compliance with the provisions of federal stipulated orders.

But while Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said she acknowledges the steps CUC has taken to be able to meet the requirements of the federal stipulated orders, she warned that additional penalties continues to accrue every single day that these requirements are not complied with.

"If you read the stipulated orders, penalties double after 30 days and they go up again after 30 days. And they have continued to accrue. EPA has been accommodating, but we should not take that for granted. This is now a court order and I hope that a formal response to all such notifications would happen timely," said Sablan.

Sablan is the chair of the Public Utilities and Infrastructure Committee of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, which received testimony from CUC officials yesterday morning on Capital Hill.

Almost two months after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency informed CUC of the accrued penalties, there is still no chief financial officer, no deputy executive director, a full-time manager for the drinking water and wastewater division, among other things.

CUC executive director Tony Muña, along with CUC's Abe Malae and Bruce Megarr, cited miscommunication, lack of personnel and focus given to power generation in previous months as among the reasons why they were not able to meet the requirements of the stipulated orders.

In an interview with reporters after the hearing, Muña said he is "confident" of meeting the Dec. 31 deadline and will not be asking the EPA for an extension.

By January, he said, CUC will have a chief financial officer.

He also said that EPA officials, during a meeting on Thursday last week, acknowledged some progress made by CUC to meet the federal requirements.

But Sablan said CUC "should take the federal deadlines seriously."

Sablan's committee also said the stipulated orders should be looked at as a roadmap for bringing CUC into full compliance with the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Michael Mann, EPA program manager for the CNMI, said yesterday the EPA knows that "CUC is facing significant challenges and they have made progress in certain areas; however, CUC is delinquent on several deliverables under the consent orders."

In yesterday's committee hearing, Sablan went through each of the 13 areas of concern raised by EPA in an Oct. 16 letter to CUC, including CUC's failure to submit a complete organizational evaluation and reorganization plan and which, as of Sept. 25, has accrued $22,000 in stipulated penalties.

CUC officials they are working on this, along with the 12 other concerns raised by EPA in its October letter.

Muña told the committee that CUC did not formally respond to EPA's Oct. 16 letter.

Besides Sablan, the four other lawmakers present were Sen. Frica Pangelinan (D-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Rep. Ed Salas (R-Saipan), and Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he is fully aware of the penalties accrued by CUC. "That is a money issue. If we can mutually agree to help one another, one way is for them to give us the money and we will fix the problem," he said.

CHANGES

From Page 1

ernor in CNMI history to be re-elected, cited four qualities he's looking for among his appointees.

"I have four elements of qualifications: Qualified, competent, loyal, and ethical," he said.

Fitial said he could not disclose at this time the names of Cabinet members and political appointees who will be replaced.

The governor appoints the heads of each of 12 departments, with the advice and consent of the Senate. These departments include Finance, Community and Cultural Affairs, Labor, Lands and Natural Resources, Commerce, Public Works, Public Safety, Public Health, and Public Lands, along with the Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Public Defender, and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Also considered part of the Cabinet are the governor's appointees who head offices that operate under the Office of the Governor. These office heads hold the rank of "special assistant to the governor."

However, due to the reorganization of the Executive Branch over the years, some office heads still carry their former titles. There are currently 14 positions but some of them are filled with individuals in acting capacities.

Also members of the governor's Cabinet are individuals who work directly for the governor, including the senior policy adviser and policy advisers. The special assistants do not head government offices; their focus is primarily on advising the governor and organizing/coordinating his various projects.

Transition Committee chair Gregorio "Kachuma" Camacho, who is chairman of the Covenant Party, is also poised to perform a top-to-bottom review of all government operations.

The review will determine which programs and offices are performing well, as well as identify the strengths and weaknesses of each office or agency.

Fitial said "this is not the same transition that we went through four years ago. But it will still be called transition because we have to follow the law. It will not be the way that we transitioned in the previous administration."

The administration had said the transition and inauguration expenses will be minimal. The inauguration is set for Jan. 11, 2010.

HOUSE

From Page 1

But MPLT chair Phillip Mendiola-Long, in a phone interview yesterday, said the issue may be "moot" at this time.

Mendiola-Long said MPLT suggested to the Tinian Mayor's Office and the Tinian Legislative Delegation to "seek a certified question on the legality and constitutionality of the local law" from the Supreme Court.

A legal opinion sought by House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) stated that Tinian Local Ordinance 16-02, which became the basis for the Tinian Municipality's $1 million local application with MPLT, is unconstitutional. It also stated that the Tinian Legislative Delegation went beyond its power to authorize debt or public debt.

But in a separate phone interview yesterday with Tinian Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Joseph Mendiola, he said that based on the legal opinion they sought, the local law "is within the boundaries of the constitution and laws."

"We cannot disclose the legal opinion because it's an attorney-client privileged communication," he said.

Mendiola said it is MPLT—and not the Tinian Legislative Delegation or the Tinian Mayor's Office—that should be asking the Supreme Court or any court about the legality of the local law since it is the loaning agency.

"I think it's MPLT's responsibility to ask the court about that before proceeding with the loan. And besides, MPLT's resolution is unrealistic," Mendiola added.

He was referring to MPLT's terms and conditions for the $1 million Tinian loan.

Mendiola-Long said the opposite legal opinion sought by the House speaker and the one sought by the Tinian Legislative Delegation puts MPLT in a difficult position.

"We can't proceed with the loan. It would be up to the applicant that's why we suggested they seek a certified question from the court on the constitutionality of the local law," he said.

The chair of the legislative delegation, for his part, said "the majority of the money under MPLT is from the Tinian land lease."

"It is about time that we get a little bit of that money for the people of Tinian to pay for retroactive salary, scholarships, and repayment of debts to the Tinian Dynasty and that debt was made by the previous administration. We're only asking $1 million of over $60 million in land lease for 2/3 of Tinian land. This is very simple," he said.

Concerns

Tebuteb, in his three-page letter dated Dec. 7, cited three major concerns about Tinian Local Ordinance 16-02.

His concerns were similar to those raised by Senate legal counsel Ian Catlett's opinion on the local law. He said the Tinian Legislative Delegation went beyond its power to authorize debt or public debt.

Tebuteb, in his letter to Mendiola-Long, said authorizing borrowing and/or public debt is beyond the power of a local legislative delegation, and this restriction is constitutional in nature and not overcome by any provision of local law.

He also said that public debt contemplated by the bill may not be used for the operating expenses of a municipality, and that the local bill did not comply with the statutory procedures for adoption.

Tebuteb said he cannot reconcile Tinian Local Ordinance 16-02 with the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth.

"I fear that executing a loan under the current authorizing legislation could lead to serious legal challenges, and in any case, would set an unsound precedent for future borrowing. I urge you and the other trustees not to approve any loan based on Tinian Local Ordinance No. 16-02," Tebuteb told Mendiola-Long.

The Tinian Legislative Delegation earlier asked MLT to waive conditions on the Tinian municipality's $1 million loan request with MPLT, including the "unreasonably stringent" conditions for default and pledging of local pachinko and poker tax revenues.

QUARTERS

From Page 1

hundreds of guests, mostly schoolchildren from private and public schools.

"We've sent 76 million to the Federal Reserve System and it is now in the process of being distributed to the other banks of the country and making its way to the American people," said Brunhart, adding that Commonwealth residents were among the very first to have the coins on hand.

The coins were minted in an eight-week period, Brunhart added. The U.S. Mint released the CNMI quarter to the Federal Reserve Bank on Nov. 30.

The CNMI commemorative quarter-dollar is the sixth and final coin in the U.S. Mint 2009 District of Columbia and U.S. Territories Quarters Program.

The coin's reverse design, made by U.S. Mint sculptor-engraver Phebe Hemphill, represents the wealth of the islands in their natural resources. Near the shore stands a large limestone latte, the supporting column of ancient indigenous Chamorro structures. Other features in the commemorative coin is two white fairy tern birds fly in characteristic synchrony overhead. A Carolinian mwar composed of plumeria, Ylang Ylang, peacock flower and Pacific basil borders the bottom of the design near the inscription "Northern Marianas Islands." The mwar is symbolic of the virtues of honor and respect.

Brunhart said they solicited and reviewed concepts from the public and came up with three design concepts, of which one final choice was selected. The Treasury Secretary approved the final design on July 31, 2008.

Brunhart said it is the Federal Reserve System that determines the demand for the coin to be made.

"This particular quarter was made over an eight-week period and would never be made again," he added.

Fitial said yesterday's event was "historic" for the Commonwealth. He said it was almost two years ago when the journey began to design the CNMI quarter for its eventual production by the U.S. Mint.

Fitial said he formed the Northern Mariana Islands Quarter Commission in February 2008 to establish narratives for the Commonwealth.

"The designs chosen represented either our history or our culture. Ultimately, I recommended to the United States Mint the design that depicted a story identifying the uniqueness of our Commonwealth. Today, we are here to unveil the islands' quarter," he told the cheering crowd.

"Shortly, our CNMI quarter will be distributed here and not long after, it will infuse into the world commerce. For some, it will simply be currency. For coin collectors, it may represent only a tiny addition to a collection. But for others, it will be much more important. I think of parents, who will show the coin to their children and use it as a teaching tool," the governor said.

Among the hundreds of students who got their hands on a commemorative coin was Rodileen Morales of Oleai Elementary School. She personally received the historic quarter from Brunhart during yesterday's ceremony.

"I want to keep this," she told *Saipan Tribune* when asked what she plans to do with the coins.

Many members of the community later lined up to buy rolls of the new quarter at a special tent set up at the Park yesterday.

The 2009 District of Columbia and U.S. Territories Quarters Program is a one-year initiative honoring the district of Columbia and five US territories—Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and U.S. Virgin Islands and the CNMI.

OMBUDSMAN

From Page 1

Unlike the issuance of "umbrella permits," however, which was met with skepticism by some workers, many workers are excited about the Federal Ombudsman's registration.

In a public notice issued today, the Ombudsman said it will be conducting an accounting of all aliens within the CNMI from Dec. 14 to Dec. 29, 2009.

In the notice, the Ombudsman explained that this accounting process is based on Public Law 110-229 (the federalization law), which requires the U.S. Department of the Interior to report to the U.S. Congress the total number of aliens within the Commonwealth.

The federalization law further orders the U.S. Department of the Interior to make recommendations to the U.S. Congress about the long-term status of aliens who were physically present in the CNMI on Nov. 28, 2009.

The CNMI's immigration system fell under federal control on Nov. 28, 2009.

Saipan Tribune repeatedly tried to talk to Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown yesterday for comments, but one of the staff said she was very busy.

The registration will be done in alphabetical order. All alien workers are asked to report to the Ombudsman's Office located at Suite 203, Marina Heights II, Puerto Rico, Saipan. Bring a copy of one's passport or other photo identification.

"For purpose of the accounting, alien means any person physically present in the CNMI who does not hold a U.S. passport or U.S. permanent resident card regardless of any Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands permit held," states the Ombudsman's notice.

"All data shall be gathered between Dec. 14 and Dec. 30, 2009. There will be no exceptions to the Dec. 30 deadline," the notice added.

United Workers Movement Inc. president Rabby Syed welcomed the Ombudsman's accounting process, describing it as "good one."

"This is showing the light to us. It shows that everybody will be counted. That means everybody will be accommodated," Syed said. "I am asking all the workers to please follow the schedule and be there for the registration."

He said they are asking the Department of the Interior to recommend improved immigration status or grant green cards to all alien workers present in the CNMI. He said, though, that the definition of "long-term status of aliens" needs clarification.

Saipan Tribune learned that some workers who heard about the registration immediately went to the Ombudsman's Office yesterday. It was not clear whether they were entertained.

Alien workers, IRs, and overstayers formed long lines daily at the Labor building in San Antonio when Labor began issuing the "umbrella permits." Labor started issuing the permits on Oct. 26; the last permit issued was on Nov. 27.

Labor deputy secretary Cinta Kaipat earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that they estimate more than 96 percent of eligible workers picked up their "umbrella permits."

NMC students' survey projected Heinz win in general polls

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

An independent survey conducted by the Current Issues class of the Northern Marianas College prior to the Nov. 7 general election projected the Republican Party's standard-bearers, Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios, to win the gubernatorial race.

The same survey, the results of which were disclosed yesterday, also predicted that the Democrat Party's Angelo Villagomez will win the Saipan mayoralty post, while Tina Sablan and Ralph Torres were projected as shoo-ins for the Saipan Senate seats. It also predicted the passage of all four initiatives.

Hofschneider and Palacios did get the most number of votes in the general election, but they were only ahead of the Covenant Party's Benigno R. Fitial and Eloy Inos tandem by eight votes. This resulted in the run-off election on Nov. 23 that was eventually won by the Fital-Inos team, with a 370-vote lead over Hofschneider and Palacios.

Of its other predictions, only the victory of Torres and the adoption of the four initiatives came to pass. Villagomez lost to Saipan mayor-elect Donald Flores, while Sablan failed to win a Senate seat.

The class survey came about as the Current Issues students were planning their class project for the semester. With a general election scheduled for the year, they said it was a great opportunity to follow the election process and learn about the four initiatives. They chose, however, to wait for the general election and the runoff to be finished before unveiling the survey results.

The survey respondents were attendees of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce debates, the CREAM debate, the Kagman debate, the Associated Students of NMC debate, and the combined Thursday classes of Current Issues class instructor Sam McPhetres.

Official tally of the students' survey indicated that GOP's Hofschneider/Palacios got a 36-vote lead over the second top vote-getters, shared by Covenant Party's Fitial/ Inos and Independent candidates Juan T. Guerrero-Joseph Camacho. Both teams got 105 votes from the respondents.

The independent tandem of Ramon Deleon Guerrero/David Borja recorded 75 votes from the total survey respondents.

For the mayoralty post, Villagomez got 131 total votes, while Covenant's Marian Tudela got 78 votes. GOP's Flores, who eventually won the race, had 71.

The six other contenders for the mayoralty post got a minimal number votes on the several occasions the survey was conducted.

For the Saipan senatorial slate, same survey results showed Ralph Torres and Tina Sablan getting the majority support of respondents, with 149 and 120 votes respectively.

All four initiatives were also predicted to get the people's approval with over 200 votes each.

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Man who sexually abused two boys gets 5 years in jail

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja sentenced yesterday to five years in prison a man who was found guilty of sexually abusing two boys in 2006.

Naraja imposed two five-year prison terms on 38-year-old Arnold Lee Kapileo Atalig for two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree. The prison term will concurrently; this means Atalig will be imprisoned for just five years.

The judge required him to start serving his sentence at the Department of Corrections today, Friday.

After completing the prison sentence, Atalig will be placed on 10 years of probation.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher prosecuted the case. Attorney Robert Myers served as Atalig's counsel.

In a bench trial in August 2009, Naraja said he finds that the CNMI government did prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Atalig committed two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree.

According to the prosecution, Atalig sexually abused a boy on April 16, 2006. In March 2006, he sexually abused another minor. The incidents happened in Chalan Lau Lau. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Regent: NMC president's task is to recruit and retain academic talent

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A member of the Northern Marianas College board of regents said that, although the board plays no part in the administrative decisions of the NMC president, she is deeply concerned about the impact the departure of many veteran college personnel will have on the college's quality of instruction.

"The board's purview remains with policy making. The decisions of the president to not renew certain employees has not been brought to the attention of the board formally," Janet King told *Saipan Tribune* when asked to comment on the nonrenewal of some long-serving employees in the institution.

King

King said the NMC president is aware of her responsibilities. "The president is aware that her task is to recruit and retain academic talent," she said.

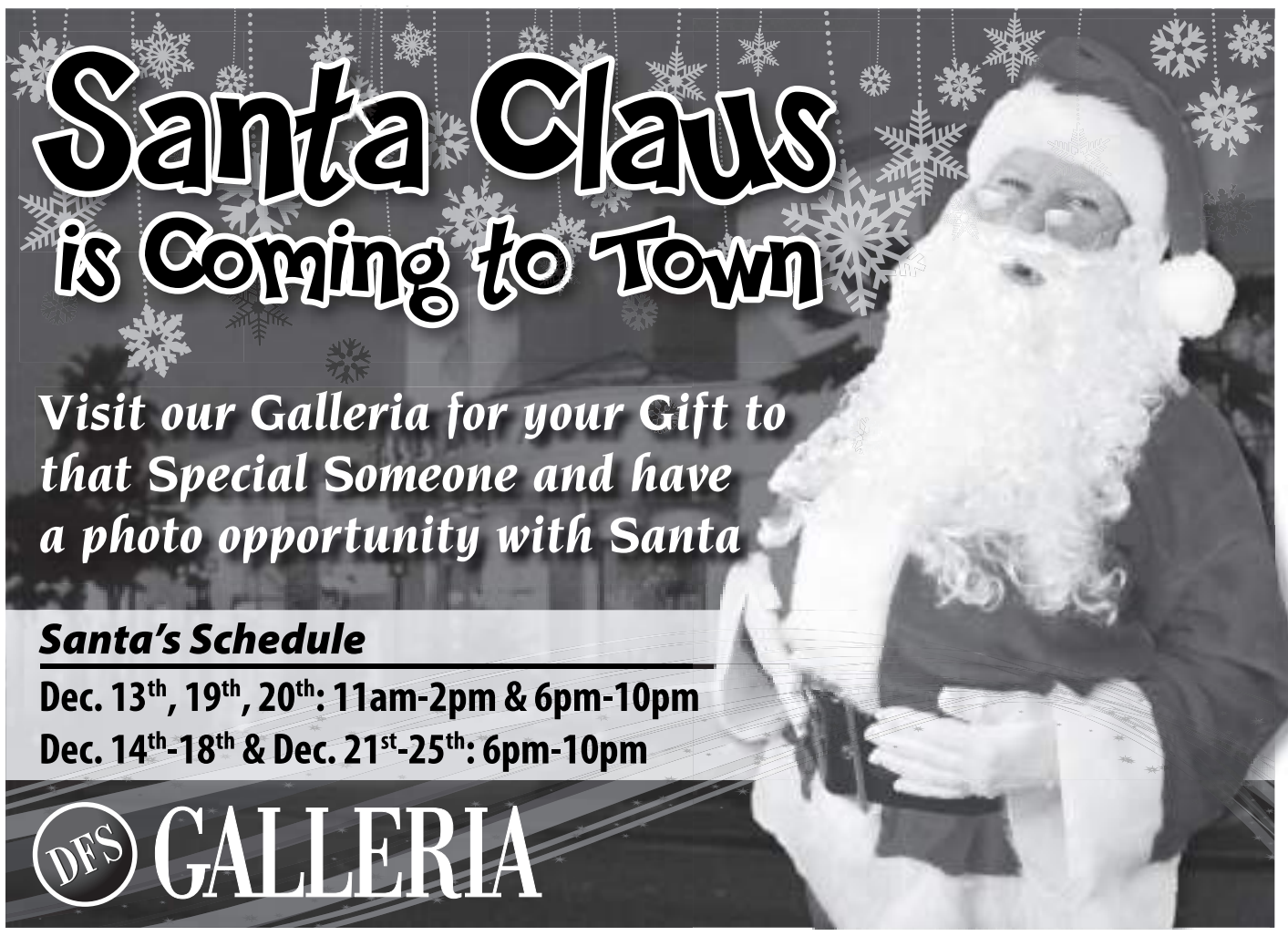
However, she admitted that as an individual regent, she is deeply concerned about employees at the college, especially faculty positions, who leave the college or whose contracts are not renewed, if those decisions negatively affect the services the college provide the students. After all, she said, NMC is an academic institution.

"It is not our position to be a part of the administrative decisions of the president, but I think that by looking broadly at the faculty recruitment and retention and how that may negatively affect the college as an academic institution, the Board of Regents can certainly intervene," she said.

King said she always advocated for a strong faculty base at the college because it is an academic institution of higher learning.

"The board will leave the administrative matters to the president, but we will work together to make sure those goals that the president set out to us, goals that include looking into tenure for faculty, are thoroughly explored and not forgotten," she added.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from acting board chair Malua Peter yesterday but she refused to be interviewed.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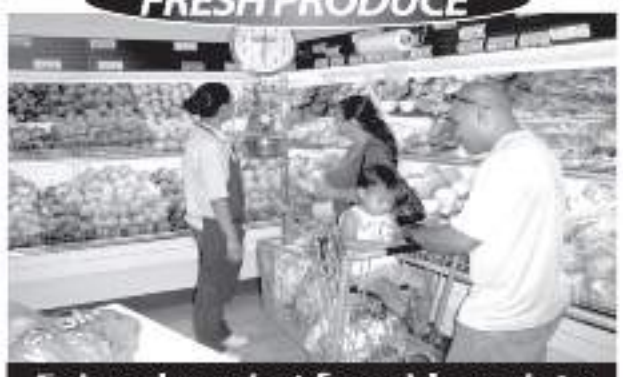

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Zoning Board elects new officers, forms committee

The Zoning Board elected new officers at its Dec. 3 regular meeting, with Herminia M. Fusco as its new chairperson.

The board consists of six members. The other officers are vice chair Henry S. Hofschneider, secretary Isidoro T. Cabrera, and treasurer Jose T. Limes. The two other members are Elizabeth D. Rechebei, Ed. D, and David Igitol.

The board also formed a special committee to be headed by Fusco, Hofschneider, and Rechebei to lead the effort to update and revise the current law, with the goal of addressing community and business concerns and seeking comments about how the current law is working.

Zoning administrator Victor Barrett said: "I look forward to working with the board and holding village meetings over the next two to three months to get the feedback required to update the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008. We want to make it more flexible and to address concerns expressed by the community, private sector, and the Legislature. In particular I hope to meet with the Legislature soon to discuss their particular concerns and suggestions to make the Zoning Law more business friendly."

The next regular meeting of the Zoning Board is scheduled for Jan. 14, 2010, on the second floor of the Joeten Dandan Building. ***(PR)***

Supreme Court sets appellate oral argument sessions for '10

The Supreme Court of the Northern Mariana Islands has announced the dates for its 2010 appellate oral argument sessions. General Order No. 2009-100 set the schedule as follows:

- **First quarter: Feb. 8-19th, 2010**
- **Second quarter: May 17-29th, 2010**
- **Third quarter: Aug. 9-20th, 2010**
- **Fourth quarter: Nov. 8-19, 2010**

Certain cases, the order stated, may be designated for a hearing on Rota, Tinian or Saipan in each quarter. To ensure that cases are heard and disposed of at the earliest possible date, the court will only grant motions to continue oral argument in cases where counsel's unavailability on the scheduled hearing date is due to illness, dearth in the family, or upon showing of other good cause. This Order does not supersede a panel's discretion to address a matter and issue a decision without oral argument as provided for und Rule 34(a) of the Commonwealth Rules of Appellate Procedure, or to holding a hearing for an emergency notice under Rule 27 of the Commonwealth rules of Appellate Procedure. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 11, 1998

Officials seek ways to finance deficit

In view of swelling budgetary shortfall that is threatening to thrust the Northern Marianas into its worst financial woes, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said he will convene his financial advisers to draw up ways to wipe out the deficit. However, thinning revenue collections which can hardly meet the funding needs for government operations, make it unlikely for the commonwealth to meet the constitutional requirement to retire the deficit next year. "We have to reserve money to retire our deficit," the governor said in an interview, "This means we will have to continue with our austerity measure and find other revenues to retire this without interrupting essential services provided to the public."

NMC Tinian prepares to transfer

The Northern Marianas College on Tinian will move into a new campus by summer of 1999. The move will not cost anything to the cash-trapped college, but it will offer students a conducive atmosphere for studies. Public Law 10-38 identified $100,000 for the design and construction of NMC on Tinian. Further lobbying brought the Tinian local officials to appropriate $250,000 to supplement the original budget. Two hectares of public land was also allocated for NMC situated next to the Tinian High School. Acting school administrator Herman P. Sablan yesterday presented to the Board of Regents the construction plans.

Dec. 11, 2000

MPLT threatens to cut housing funds

A lending program by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation for low- and middle-income families has hit a snag after the Marianas Public Land Trust withheld funds until the end of the year. MPLT trustees warned they may cut the entire $3.9 million loan extended in October to the housing agency to finance the program if the Legislature fails to amend or act on a legislative initiative it has strongly opposed. In a letter to Rep. Dino M. Jones, chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, they said they have deferred final approval for the release of the money to NMHC, citing House Legislative Initiative 12-3 as main reason for their action.

Two new hotels to rise in Garapan

Two new hotels will rise in the tourist district of Garapan as immediate result of the newly-signed law granting tax breaks to investments in the CNMI, according to a major proponent of the economic incentive program. House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta, main sponsor of Public Law 12-32, said these two big projects are expected to boost the islands' economy following more than three years of stagnant growth. One of the new investments will be a floating hotel to be built across from the Kristo Rai church, while the other will be a high-rise hotel on the property across the DFS Galleria that used to be the Samoan housing, he said.

Dec. 11, 2001

Islands' way of life in danger

Government transparency plus public cooperation would go a long way toward mitigating the economic ruin that is staring the CNMI in the face these days. Thus said incoming House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider, even as he rued the fact that a lot of people don't seem to realize yet the extent of the economic decline that is endangering the way of life in the CNMI. "The best public policy that we all can really contribute is to be honest with the people, that the economy is sliding and we need to do something about the continued decline of the economy," said Hofschneider.

NMI's manpower pool shrinking

The CNMI has virtually stopped importing an average of 400 new foreign workers a month since last year, a scenario that paints the Commonwealth's gloomy economic future, according to the US Social Security Administration. Social Security Saipan Field Office Manager Michael G. Newman said that the Commonwealth government may not be able to sustain its operations due to dwindling revenues that resulted from the dramatic slowdown in business activities. "There will be fewer contributions and there will be dramatic effect on the trust fund as people lose their jobs and apply for certain benefits," Newman explained. He said this is clearly manifested by the number of new Social Security cards/numbers issued by the agency to foreign workers in the CNMI, pointing out that the SSA released about 7,000 cards to newly hired nonresidents before last year.

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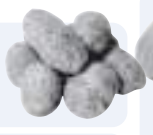

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EDITORIAL

Mr. Obama's jobs plan

Only about a month ago, White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel took a shot at policy wonks who were picking apart the Obama administration's health-care plans. "The goal isn't to see whether I can pass this through the executive board of the Brookings Institution," Mr. Emanuel said. The remark implied that the administration cares more about politics than policy. So we were pleased to see that President Obama chose the Brookings Institution, the venerable centrist think tank, as the venue for his speech on the economy this week. In that spirit, we'll leave the political analysis of his proposals to others—in any case, it's obvious that unchecked joblessness could mean disaster for his party at the polls next year—and focus on their policy merits.

The problem is all too real: The unemployment rate is lower than it was a month ago, but still—at 10 percent—far too high. Yet the federal deficit, which hit $1.3 trillion for fiscal 2009 and is projected to be about the same in fiscal 2010, is outside the comfort zone as well. Mr. Obama tried to thread the needle. He offered a series of new tax breaks and spending programs, while asserting that they were affordable because the Treasury Department will have to spend only about $500 billion of the $700 billion Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) after all. This was less than convincing. The TARP was financed by debt; and so, to the extent that they replace the TARP, Mr. Obama's proposals will not be paid for either, except by borrowing.

Still, the fundamental question is how much job-creation "bang" Mr. Obama can hope to get for the additional borrowed bucks. Unfortunately, it's hard to know, because he offered no dollar amounts and relatively few programmatic specifics. For example, the president called for a new tax break for small businesses to increase hiring but did not say whether he favors a tax credit or a payroll tax holiday (which would be a more efficient subsidy). He proposed incentives for consumers who make their homes more energy-efficient. "Cash for caulkers" would have the advantage of putting unused capacity in the construction industry to work; however, like "cash for clunkers," the plan would merely move future demand into the present.

The president took some partisan jabs at the Republicans in Congress, whom he accused of leaving him with a $1.3 trillion deficit. There's some truth to that, though it's also true that Mr. Obama has pledged to extend most of the previous administration's tax cuts and supported the Wall Street bailout—which he this week correctly credited for averting a second Great Depression. Instead of this blame game, Mr. Obama could offer some truly fresh thinking about job creation—a new push, for example, in favor of free-trade agreements with South Korea and Colombia, or a lower minimum wage for unemployed youth. Those ideas might well have impressed the policy wonks in his audience at Brookings. But they also would be dead on arrival in the Democratic Congress. Maybe Mr. Emanuel had a point after all.

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5 myths about putting the world's worst on trial

By BELINDA COOPER
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

In Germany last week, 89-year-old John Demjanjuk, a former Ohio autoworker who came to the United States in 1952, lay on a stretcher and listened to the accusation against him: that he was an accomplice in the murder of at least 27,900 people who died at the Sobibor concentration camp while he worked there in 1943. The trial, now on hold because of Demjanjuk's ill health, is the latest example of holding individuals accountable for the crimes of the murderous regimes they served.

Law was first used to deal with such crimes in the post-World War II tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany, where Allied judges tried 22 Nazi leaders for the Third Reich's atrocities. Demjanjuk was allegedly a relatively low-level perpetrator, but today's defendants include once-powerful figures and even sitting heads of state. The international tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has finally gotten its hands on Radovan Karadzic, the man believed responsible for the Srebrenica massacre, 14 years after his original indictment, and the International Criminal Court in the Hague is going after Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur.

Few today question whether a country's leaders should be held personally responsible for state crimes committed on their watch. Still, the methods remain controversial. The United States deported Demjanjuk to Germany and supports the Yugoslavia tribunal, but it is unwilling to join the ICC, fearing that American soldiers—or leaders—might one day find themselves in the dock.

War-crimes trials mainly happen in international courts.

International trials are only a small subset of the many prosecutions going on today. True, the courts for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda have convicted dozens of top perpetrators, and the ICC is tackling cases from four African countries. But their resources are limited. Most trials take place in domestic courts, or in "hybrid courts" that combine local and international lawyers and judges, bolstering weak judicial systems and adding a measure of impartiality. In Cambodia, a hybrid court known as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, assisted by the United Nations, is completing its first trial of those responsible for the "killing fields" 30 years ago. Similar courts have been employed in Sierra Leone, Bosnia, Iraq and East Timor. More controversially, some national judges and prosecutors, such as Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon, have used the idea of "universal jurisdiction"—that some crimes are so heinous any country has a right to prosecute them—to investigate foreign leaders for crimes committed abroad, particularly if they might otherwise escape accountability.

No need for trials. It's obvious these guys are guilty.

Winston Churchill agreed with Joseph Stalin that the best way to deal with Nazi leaders was to shoot a few of them. A trial implies the possibility of acquittal. Do we really want to risk letting mass murderers go free? The same argument has been raised in the case of Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the self-proclaimed mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who may soon stand trial in New York. Yet our legal system is predicated on the belief that even bad guys get their day in court. Law is fundamental to functioning societies. After nations have been torn apart by conflict, legal proceedings help re-establish the rule of law. Revenge tends to breed further violence, but transparent trials of key individuals help to prevent entire groups from feeling blamed. And courts establish factual records, such as Nuremberg's 22-volume trial transcript, that counter the denials of those who would rather believe the unthinkable didn't happen in their own backyards.

It's never too late.

This is a tough one. It's one thing to see former leaders—Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia, say, or Hermann Goering in 1946—stripped of their arrogance and trappings of power at a time when many of their victims are alive to witness justice. But it's harder—even for me, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor—to gain much satisfaction from the possible conviction, 60 years after the fact, of a frail 89-year-old. In Demjanjuk's case, perhaps too much time has passed. But context also matters. The aged defendants in the Cambodia trials, for example, were key actors in that nation's horrors and are the first to be tried for their country's crimes; their prosecution marks the beginning of justice, not, as in Demjanjuk's case, its last gasp. Yet even a delayed trial such as Demjanjuk's can serve to educate a new generation. Justice and deterrence, too, argue for prosecution: For crimes as heinous as genocide, no one should be able to escape accountability, ever, and future perpetrators should know their guilt will never expire.

Trials help foster reconciliation at home but don't matter much elsewhere.

In the case of international tribunals, at least, the reverse is more likely the case. It wasn't the Nuremberg tribunal that led Germans to face their history; at the time, the trial wasn't very popular in Germany. It took education, social change and time before a new generation of Germans was able to look more honestly at the past. The tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, too, is widely resented at home. Mass crimes require popular support—be it active involvement or passive complicity, such as accepting a government's racist agenda—and those views don't change overnight. Victimized groups will be pleased at the verdicts of international tribunals, which are often less biased than those of domestic courts, but at least in the short run, such trials are unlikely to cause major changes of heart in the countries for which they're created.

Trials may have a broader deterrent effect, however. Though international justice is too new for definite conclusions, leaders

See 5 MYTHS on Next Page

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Air wars

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

What remains of the Commonwealth's tattered tourism center will be carried on the wings of airliners (along with the occasional ship), which was excuse enough for me to recently take a tour of Boeing's largest factory, which is in Everett, Wash. From the B-29 of Enola Gay fame, to the legendary 727, the mighty 747, and the fuel-efficient 737NG (New Generation), Boeing and the Commonwealth have at least 65 years of history together.

Boeing and its rival, Airbus, have been locked in a King Kong vs. Godzilla battle for years now. When Airbus started out, they aspired to get a 30 percent market share of the world's large airliner industry. Airbus has exceeded that goal by a wide margin: The last time I looked, Airbus was bobbing around 50 percent or so (depending on how you want to measure this stuff).

Boeing is the last remaining U.S. producer of large jet airliners.

Airline production has always been an issue of national pride. A few years ago Boeing was suffering from a perception that its senior management was arrogant and out of touch, and Airbus has gone through a lot of reported contention and flux in management ranks.

The latest chapter in the Boeing vs. Airbus realm has seen totally divergent strategies for their newest airline designs. Airbus opted to make a giant airplane, the double-decker A380, which is bigger than Boeing's mighty 747. The big idea behind the big plane was that it would serve major international, high-traffic routes, such as, say, Singapore to London. The A380 is flying commercial service as you read these words.

So the drama is on Boeing's side of the stage, since Boeing is, thus far, running more than two years late on its bird, the 787 "Dreamliner." The Dreamliner is a wide-body, so it's no pipsqueak, but it's no whale either. It was supposedly concocted to serve just about any destination that you can stuff an airliner into, thus providing direct air service instead of the "hub and spoke" runaround. The 787 is a composite aircraft (as opposed to metal), and many grand promises were involved in promoting this aircraft. As for "composite" I don't know how to describe it, it sort of feels like a mixture of plastic and fiberglass if you put your mitts on it.

Airliner development often entails a degree of gutsy brinksmanship when it comes to making promises and actually delivering on them, but even with this high threshold, the 787 raised some eyebrows. Aviation buffs will recall Boeing's hyped "Sonic Cruiser" airliner in 2001, which saw a lot of newsprint, but never saw the light of day. The next big thing was the 787. So I think there's more than an airplane at issue, I think there's a credibility issue as well.

So Boeing has staked its fortune and honor on the 787. All Nippon Airways was the first customer. The 787 was supposed to fly in 2007. But it didn't fly in 2007. Nor did it fly in 2008. Nor, thus far, has it flown in 2009, though last week I talked with two Boeing engineers who told me that they will be involved in 787 flights this month.

Why the delays? At issue have been really wacky production problems, like, oh, details such as that the big pieces of the airplane didn't fit together right. The Internet is pregnant with information on this stuff, but much of it is mere PR, so it's hard to pick your way through the piles to get to the mushrooms.

The dramatic tension is this: Are the 787s problems mere teething pains in what will ultimately be a major high-tech advance in airliner design? If so, Boeing will be a hero in this high-stakes game, and will probably churn out over a thousand of these craft in the near future (about 850 are said to be on the order books right now). If, on the other hand, things don't work out as promised, well, I guess you can concoct their own ideas for that scenario.

It takes aircraft a lot of years to really prove themselves, so this show might be a long time in the running. As for Airbus, they are already having entire airplanes made in China, and it's going to be mighty interesting when the Chinese start making an indigenously designed large airliner, which will really shake things up when that day arrives.

Boeing has built one of the world's most impressive industrial histories. I guess we'll just have to wait and see how this chapter plays out. So either the Boeing 787 or the Airbus 350 (Airbus' answer to the 787, thus beginning the next chapter in this rivalry...) will someday be seen in Saipan or at least in Guam.

I'll put a link or two on SaipanBlog.com for those who share my interest in this subject.

Covenant provision on land alienation restriction in NMI

By EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: Edward DLG. Pangelinan is a former chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission and is currently a committee member of the Citizens for Change of Article XII.

The Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America specifically addresses the issue of land alienation restriction in the Northern Mariana Islands. The pertinent section of the Covenant provides:

"Section 805. Except as otherwise provided in this Article, and notwithstanding the other provisions of this Covenant, or those provisions of the Constitution, treaties and laws of the United States applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands, in view of the importance of the ownership of land, and in order to protect them against exploitation and to promote their economic advancement and self-sufficiency:

(a) will until twenty-fve years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, and may thereafter, regulate the alienation of permanent and long-term interests in real property so as to restrict the acquisition of such interest to person of Northern Mariana Islands descent; and

(b) may regulate the extend to which a person may own or hold land which is now public land."

On Feb. 15, 1975, the Covenant was signed by the Marianas Political Status Commission for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and by the President's Personal Representative, Ambassador F. Haydn Williams for the United States of America, following which the Covenant was approved by the unanimous vote of the Marianas Islands District Legislature on Feb. 20, 1975, and by 78.8 percent of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands voting in a plebiscite held on June 17, 1975.

Subsequently after the plebiscite approval, the Covenant was transmitted to the U.S. Congress for its review and approval. On July 10, 1975, H.J. Res. 549, a Joint Resolution to approve the "Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes" was introduced in the House of Representatives by the late Rep. Phillip Burton of San Francisco, and co-sponsored by 25 House members including Rep. George Miller of California. The Joint Resolution was referred to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs for its consideration. On July 14, 1975, the House Subcommittee on Territorial and Insular Affairs of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, held a hearing on the Covenant. As part of the records of the hearing a Section-By-Section Analysis of the Covenant was submitted and the following became the legislative history of Section 805.

"Section 805. This section assures that the people of the Northern Mariana Islands will be able to retain ownership of their land. It expressly recognizes the importance of the ownership of land for the culture and traditions of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and the desirability of protecting their land against exploitation. Under this section the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands must until 25 years after the termination of the Trusteeship regulate the alienation of permanent and long-term interest in property so as to restrict the acquisition of such interests to persons of Northern Mariana Islands descent, i.e., of Chamorro or Carolinian ancestry. After the expiration of this 25-year period, the Government of the Northern Mariana islands may regulate the alienation of property as described. Moreover, the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands is specifically authorized to regulate the extend to which any one person may hold or own land which is now public land.

It is intended that it will be the responsibility of the local government to implement the provision of this Section. In particular, the local government will define the operative terms of the section, including such terms as "long-term interest in real property," "acquisition" and "person of Northern Mariana Islands descent", i.e., Chamorro or Carolinian ancestry.

The limitation of the rights to acquire land to persons of Northern Mariana Islands descent would not constitute an invidious discrimination on racial grounds prohibited by the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment or the Equal Protection Clause of the Four-

See COVENANT on Page 14

Letter to the Editor

NMC's lack of commitment to academic freedom

Sam McPhetres has been a highly respected scholar and the keeper of CNMI history since its very beginning. For the last several decades, he has ably passed this knowledge on to the next generation through his position as teaching faculty at NMC.

In addition, using polls and surveys as tools, he has taught his students valuable skills: to think critically, to prioritize, to communicate, to collect, evaluate and present data, as they identified various social issues facing the CNMI.

Now, that voice has been cut off. Why? Allegedly because NMC's administration did not like the findings of the students' research.

McPhetres may or may not have been ready to retire. Nonetheless, to force him off the faculty in order to censor student activities is a violation of his rights, as well as those of the students.

NMC is the CNMI's only public institution of higher education. As such, one expects it—and indeed, it is obligated—to uphold the values and standards that come with academics, not the least of which is freedom of expression—even of dissent, and the right to voice an opinion—even if different.

Yet, in this instance, NMC is stifling, curtailing, abrogating its students' constitutionally guaranteed right of freedom of speech, and, in effect, has fired their teacher for allowing the students to exercise that right.

Such conduct on the part of the NMC administration is shameful, as well as downright embarrassing.

If this action is allowed to stand, it will prove NMC's lack of commitment to academic freedom.

Ruth Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

5 MYTHS

From Page 10

and foot soldiers are starting to be concerned about international courts. Human Rights Watch has reported that an Afghan warlord specifically warned his troops against committing war crimes because of the danger of international prosecution. The trial of a Congolese rebel leader accused of recruiting child soldiers has reportedly affected the behavior of local fighters. Even the indignant response to Bashir's indictment among some African and Arab League leaders suggests they take the ICC's actions seriously. The more consistently international prosecutions happen, the more meaningful their deterrence effect is likely to become.

You can't get a fair trial in an international court.

It's true that international courts don't adhere to the procedural standards applied by U.S. courts. But neither do European courts. Jury trials are not the norm in Europe; nor are the hearsay rules we're accustomed to seeing on "Law and Order." Yet Americans can be tried in foreign courts if they commit crimes overseas. In fact, international tribunals have developed extensive rules of procedure based on a combination of many countries' legal practices. Fear of a malicious prosecutor is equally misplaced; prosecutors and judges in international tribunals tend to be respected jurists, and the ICC statute includes limits on the court's power to initiate prosecutions—limits drafted in part by the United States, which was active, 11 years ago, in creating the court it has yet to join.

Belinda Cooper, the editor of War Crimes: The Legacy of Nuremberg, *is a senior fellow at the World Policy Institute and an adjunct professor in New York University's global affairs program.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲84 ▼75
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87 ▼76
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲85 ▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲84 ▼79

Around The Globe

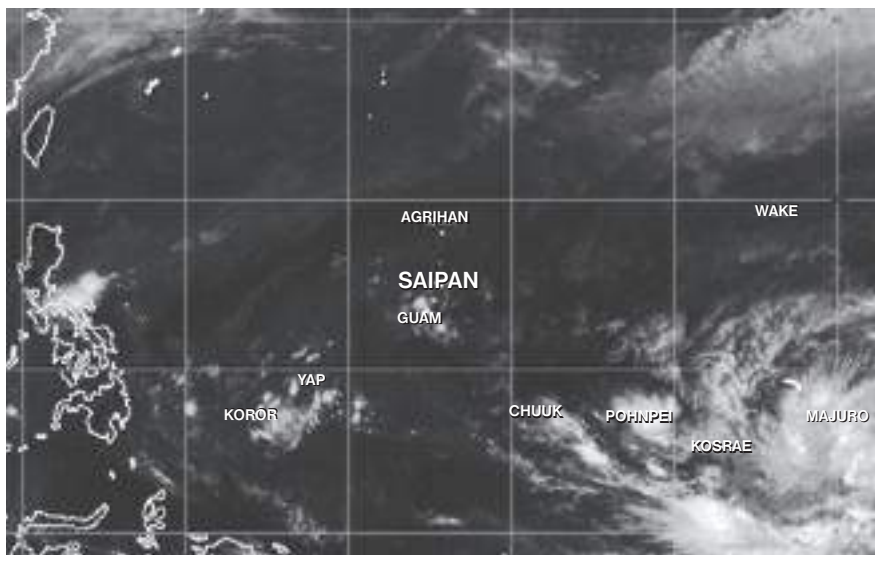
Auckland	Showers	▲76 ▼64
Beijing	Cloudy	▲38 ▼21
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲75 ▼67
Honolulu	Showers	▲80 ▼69
London	Partly Sunny	▲50 ▼39
Los Angeles	Rain	▲58 ▼46
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼73
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲68 ▼52
Miami	Showers	▲79 ▼72
New York	Partly Sunny	▲32 ▼26
Osaka	Showers	▲61 ▼47
Paris	Cloudy	▲45 ▼34
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲60 ▼41
Rome	Sunny	▲57 ▼37
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲38 ▼34
San Francisco	Rain	▲57 ▼50
Seoul	Dreary	▲47 ▼26
Tokyo	Rain	▲53 ▼50
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲38 ▼26

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:39 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:56 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
3:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
10:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A nearly stationary frontal boundary curves westward from 24N180 to north of Wake Island at 22N167E to a circulation centered east of Iwo To island at 24N147E, then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 16N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are occurring along and north of the front to beyond 25N, while cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of the shear line. Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Guam within 40 miles of a line from 14N145E to 12N147E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from southwest of Koror at 5N130E through a weak circulation centered south of Yap at 6N138E to a much larger circulation centered just west of Tarawa near 1N170E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the circulation south of Yap are located beween 5N and 8N from 135E to 139E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the circulation west of Tarawa are occurring between the equator and 9N from 155E to 180. This area include Pohnpei, Kwajalein, Kosrae, and Majuro.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:33 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Monday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Tuesday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:36 AM	12:36 PM
Saturday	2:30 AM	1:18 PM
Sunday	3:24 AM	3:02 PM
Monday	4:19 AM	3:50 PM
Tuesday	5:15 AM	4:40 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 7, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:30am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:20am+1	Daily via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	4, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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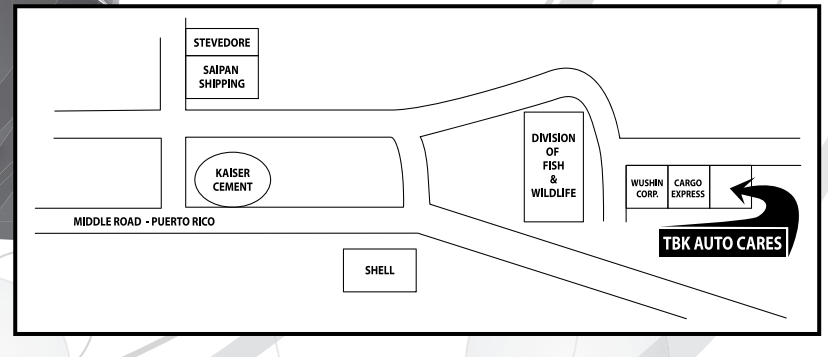

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COVENANT

From Page 11

teenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. Its purpose is not to confer an undue privilege on the persons of the Northern Mariana Islands descent, but rather to protect them from the expected exploitation from aggressive and economically more advanced outside groups. Similar legislation has been upheld with respect to the American Indians. See, e.g., *Board of Commissioners v. Seber,* 318 U.S. 705, 715-718 (1943), pointing out that these laws were required to protect the Indians from the selfishness of others. See also *Contractor Ass'n of Eastern Pa. V. Secretary of Labor,* 442 F. 2nd 159, 177 (C.A. 3, 1971), cert. Den., 404 U.S. 854, holding that differentiations and even quotas designed to remedy past evils are not inconsistent with the equal protection aspect of the Fifth Amendment. The same consideration would apply to measure designed to avoid future wrongs.

There is precedent for legislation designed to protect similar interest. The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, 42 Stat. 180, was enacted by Congress for the protection of the native Hawaiians while Hawaii was still a Territory. Section 4 of the Hawaii Statehood Act contains a provision in the nature of a compact to the effect that the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act become a part of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii subject to amendment and repeal only with the consent of the United States. Guam recently adopted legislation analogous to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act."

After due consideration by the U.S. Congress, H.J. Res. 549 was transmitted to the President of the United States for his review and consideration. On March 24, 1976, President Gerald R. Ford at a White House signing ceremony, H.J. Res. 549 became U.S. Public Law 94-241, 90 Stat. 263.

An inquiry has been raised as to what was the nature of the discussion on land issues between the Marianas and U.S. negotiators, who was for land alienation restriction, who was against, and why?

As Chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission, I was privileged, pleased and surprised to observe the interest, understanding and willingness of each of the MPSC members to participate in the debate and discussion on the issue of land alienation restriction. MPSC had 15 members, and the Commission was evenly split on this issue. One half of the Commission, representing the "traditional or conservative" position and led by the late Dr. Francisco T. Palacios, passionately advanced the position that land in the Northern Marianas was a limited, irreplaceable, and priceless commodity. The history, culture and tradition of the people of the islands were deeply interconnected to the land. The land had been our people's means of livelihood and survival. Even our people's identity was reflected on which island that person reside, i.e., a Rotanese was identified as someone who lived in Rota, and so was true of those from Tinian or Saipan. Our people were embarking to become part of the American political family, but we should always be mindful of our origin, ancestry, culture, tradition and history. The people of the Northern Mariana Islands were unique and proud group of people and once our citizens became assimilated into the American system, we should always maintain our identity and pride as people from the Northern Marianas. They further articulated their fear of exploitation from aggressive and economically more advanced outside groups, such as the likes of the Rockefeller family which own and control most of Saint John Island in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Bishop's Estate in Hawaii, and possibly Toyota, Sumitomo or Shimizu groups ending up owning all of the private lands in the Northern Mariana Islands. Dr. Palacios, the senior member of the Commission, and was the most enlightened member of the history of the Marianas gave a passionate plea and urged the members of the Commission that in the interest of preserving the culture and traditions of our island peoples, ownership of land must be restricted to people of Northern Mariana Islands descent.

See COVENANT on Next Page

CHRISTMAS SALE!!!
DEC. 5, 2009 -JAN. 5, 2010
TOYS - 50%
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR DECORATIONS - 25%
CARPETS - 15%
BEDROOM APPAREL - 20%
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~~Quest S~~ | ~~9N1037~~ SOLD | ~~Silver~~ | ~~$4,000.00~~
~~Murano SL~~ | ~~9W1006~~ SOLD | ~~Silver~~ | ~~$4,000.00~~
HONDA | STOCK # | Color | Discount
~~Fit Sport~~ | ~~9S05442~~ SOLD | ~~Silver~~ | ~~$3,000.00~~
Civic LX | 9L015450 | Blue | $3,000.00
Civic Hybrid | 9S007352 | Gray | $3,500.00
~~Accord LXP~~ | ~~8A10313~~ SOLD | ~~Gold~~ | ~~$4,000.00~~
Odyssey EX | 9B017464 | White | $4,000.00
FORD | STOCK # | Color | Discount
Ranger XL | 9PA13734 | White | $2,500.00
Fusion SE | 9R137166 | Smoke | $3,000.00
KIA | STOCK # | Color | Discount
Sedona LX | 86235463 | White | $3,500.00
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COVENANT

From Page 14

The other half of MPSC, which I informally referred to as the "progressive" group and led by former Rep. Herman Q. Guerrero, advanced the argument that ownership right of real property was tantamount to individual rights protected by the U.S. Constitution. A person should be at liberty to make disposition of his real property in his/her best interest. Government should be constrained from restricting an individual in the disposition of his ownership right to real property. Ownership of property has no bearing in the relationship to culture and traditions of the islands. The culture and traditions of the Northern Mariana Islands reside in the hearts, minds and soul of the people and not with their relationship to the land. A person of Northern Mariana Islands descent who did not speak the native language nor wish to observe the traditions (values of our islands) was not in any position to help preserve and defend the Chamorro or Carolinian culture or traditions. A further argument advanced by this group was that restriction to ownership of real property to indigenous persons artificially devalue the true market value of the property. It was noted that during the time of the status negotiations around 1973-1975, there were only a handful of successful indigenous families that were buying real property in the Northern Marianas, and in most cases, the value of the purchase fell below the existing market value of real estate. The progressive group passionately argued that there were many indigenous families that were in desperate need of medical services, and many were looking for educational and employment opportunities for their families that were only available outside the Northern Marianas. They wished to sell their land to the highest bidders in order to secure the financial resources to finance their trip for such medical services and other opportunities outside the Marianas. Several of the members of this group alluded that there was nothing improper to sell Marianas land and replace it with land in Guam, Hawaii or California. Others argued that the climate and opportunities in Hawaii and in the mainland U.S.A were favorable and attractive inducement and reasons our people were excited to become members of the American Political family.

The members of MPSC debated and discussed passionately the merits of all the positions advanced for several days and the members were heading toward an impasse. After considerable reflection and prayers, the members of the Commission reached a compromise position. It was unanimously agreed that the language of Section 805 be incorporated into the Covenant.

The American delegation headed by Ambassador F. Haydn Williams supported and complemented MPSC in its position on land alienation restriction and acquiesced to the language of the provisions of Section 805 of the Covenant.

Article XII of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution becomes a reality.

Letter to the Editor

Participatory democracy pursued

My last letter to the editor, "More Transparency Expected," encouraged citizens to investigate what our government is doing and offer suggestions by visiting and interacting with these three CNMI government Web sites: legislative (www.cnmileg.gov.mp); executive (www.cnmigov.net); and judiciary (www.justice.gov.mp). After receiving some encouraging feedback, I thought that I should follow my own advice and see how these Web sites work. So I returned to each Web sites and investigated them further.

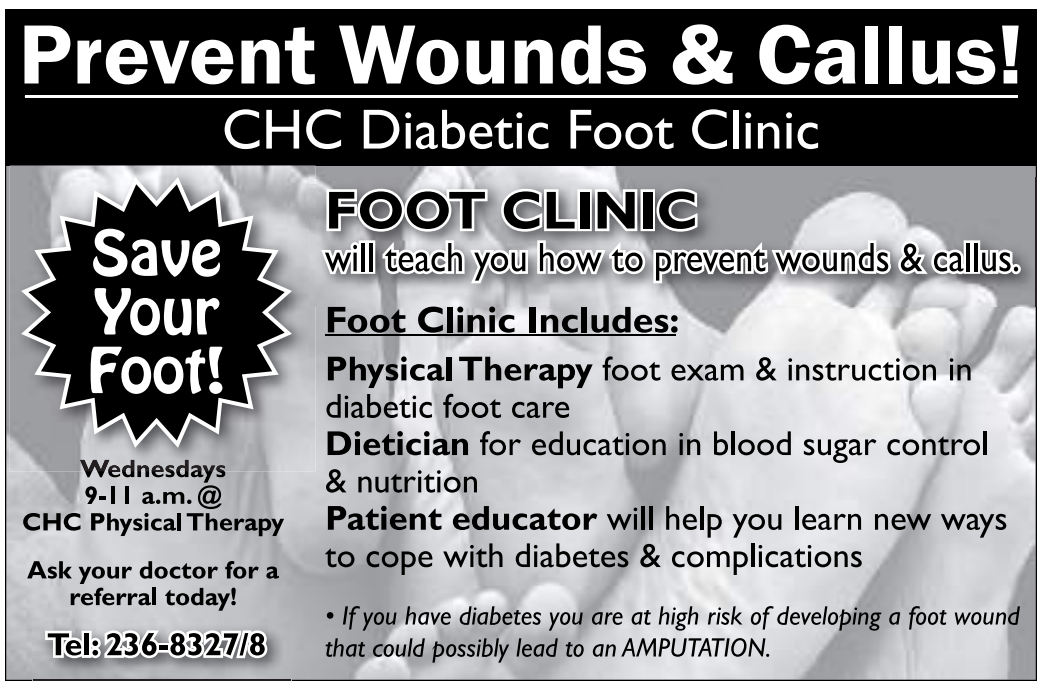
Did you know that the CNMI judiciary has a long-range plan? You can review it at their Web sites. It was assembled with the assistance of the National Center of State Courts and is titled, "Strategic Plan for CNMI Judicial Branch." I found it to be very interesting. At the CNMI judiciary Web sites you can also review the "State of the Judiciary Report, 2006." It was released in March 2007. Gee, that's well over two years ago! This Web sites also shows details of the judicial budget requests for both the Supreme Court and the Superior Court. Click on "Administration," then click on "Reports" to view the annual reports and budget requests. While I have not thoroughly investigated the Web sites for the CNMI government's legislative and executive branches, it appears as if a genuine effort to inform the public about our CNMI judiciary is ongoing. That's good, but it definitely needs to be more current.

In addition to the National Center of State Courts, there are two other organizations for sharing state strategic planning ideas. I hope the CNMI is making use of them. They are the National Governors' Association and the National Center for State Legislatures. All of our elected officials would be well advised to check out these Web sites. Many state jurisdictions have wrestled with issues similar to those in the CNMI.

Newly elected legislators should be spending their time right now studying three documents: the CNMI Covenant, the CNMI Constitution, and the U.S. Constitution. Also, before these legislators pass any new legislation, they should be sure to review all related past legislation.

Next I went to the Web sites for the CNMI Executive Branch and selected a couple of the governor's advisers. I asked a couple of questions via e-mail. I received a return e-mail that thanked me for my suggestions, but have yet to get the answers to my questions. I'll let you know when I receive a response. Please join me in my efforts to make our government more responsive to its citizens. Want to know something about what's happening in any one of the three branches of our government? Go to these Web sites and ask. Do it often. Then please share with all of us. My e-mail is ludwick@itecnmi.com. I'd really appreciate the help and it would be one more step toward participatory democracy (i. e., citizen control of the CNMI's future).

Roger N. Ludwick
Sadog Tasi, Saipan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CARONEL WATCH CENTER

Two-Day Holiday Event

Friday (Dec. 11) and Saturday (Dec. 12)

from 10am to 10pm

Save 20% on name brand watches, jewelry, and sunglasses (Does not apply to Rolex watches)

Get an additional 20% off selected items

Receive a complimentary Rolex Luxury Gift with any Rolex purchase

Enjoy 0% interest financing when you make a purchase of $500 or more with your Guam issued Citibank credit card

Driving range opens at Mariana Resort & Spa

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mariana Resort & Spa has built a driving range adjacent to its go-kart track in Marpi.

CONTACT INFO
Mariana Country Club
Tel: 322-2235

To complement its planned golf academy, Mariana Resort & Spa has built a driving range adjacent to its go-kart track in Marpi.

Mariana Country Club operations manager Lito Parulan said the new facility will officially open tomorrow, Dec. 12.

He said the hotel spent about $90,000 to build the Mariana Resort Driving Range, as the new facility is called; construction began in November 2009.

The driving range is built on the site of the hotel's former 18-hole mini golf course, which has been shortened to an eight-hole course.

Parulan said golfers have long been pining for a driving range inside Mariana Resort's compound. He said the new facility will fit in nicely with the hotel's plan to set up a golf academy.

Golf manager Rhee Jae Wan, who will be in charge of the Mariana Resort Driving Range, said the planned golf academy will be run by professional golfers from South Korea.

Rhee added that with the opening of the driving range, Mariana Resort will be better positioned to attract golfers from its main markets of Korea and Japan.

Mariana Resort Driving Range will have 50 tee boxes and will be open from 9am to 10:30pm daily.

To celebrate its opening tomorrow, Marianas Resort Driving Range will have a special promotion where customers only need to shell out $3 for a bucket of 100 golf balls.

Rhee said the special promotion will last until Dec. 31, 2009. The regular price for a bucket of 100 golf balls is $5.

Parulan said with the opening of the new driving range and the existence of both a mini and an 18-hole golf course, Mariana Resort & Spa can now boast of being a complete golf facility.

For more information or reservation, call Mariana Country Club at 322-2235. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

VOLVO RUBBER TIRE EXCAVATOR W/ROCK BREAKER

CRAWLER EXCAVATOR W/ ROCK BREAKER (2 UNIT)

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HEAVY EQUIPMENT RENTAL

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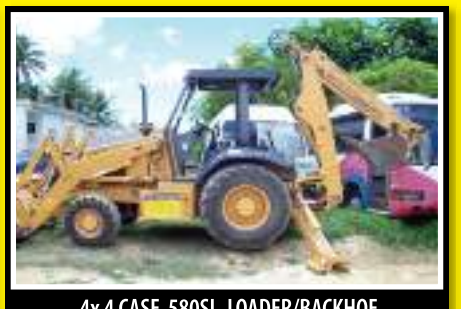
DITCH WITCH 6510 ROCKSAW (8"W-30"D)


4x 4 CASE 580SL LOADER/BACKHOE

DITCH WITCH 7610 TRENCHER (6"W- 5FT D)

60 TON –DAEWOO LOWBOY

8 TON – TRAILER

5 TON-HYUNDAI BOOM TRUCK W/BUCKET

Humanities Council to host a book discussion program

The NMI Council for the Humanities invites to public to attend a four-week book discussion program that will explore four classic American novels.

The program, which runs from Jan. 18 to Feb. 12, 2010, will be facilitated by Dr. P.F. Kluge, writer-in residence at Kenyon College in Ohio.

Books to be discussed during the program include To Kill a Mockingbird, Old Man and the Sea, Huckleberry Finn, and The Things They Carried.

One novel will be considered each week during three 90-minute sessions.

During these sessions, Kluge will lead discussions to explore each novel on three levels—what they say, how they say it, and how their themes relate to contemporary life in the Commonwealth. Ample time will be reserved during each session for class discussion and debate.

The program, supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, is free of charge. Books will be provided by the Council.

Kluge

Individuals interested in attending this book discussion program are invited to contact Council staff at 235-4785 to reserve a seat. The program is limited to 100 participants who will be registered on a first come, first served basis. The venue and specific dates and times for sessions will be announced shortly.

Additional information on this and other Council programs is available on the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

GCA to stage Christmas production today

Grace Christian Academy will present their annual Christmas production today, Dec. 11, 2009, at 6pm in the Grace Christian Academy auditorium. Admission is free and the public is invited to watch. *A Christmas Carol, Revisited* is about Tiny Tim who is all grown up and there are three ghosts who visit him: the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future. ***(PR)***

Green Meadow PTA meeting

The Green Meadow School will have a Parents Teachers Association meeting on Monday, Dec. 14, 2009, 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the Green Meadow School in Chalan Kiya. ***(PR)***

Saipan Harriers to mark 25 years of Hashing

After 1,300 runs on almost every single bit of land on Saipan, the Saipan Hash House Harriers will be celebrating 25 years of Hashing. Just $100 will get you the whole weekend of activities beginning with a welcoming cocktail party from 6pm to 9pm on Friday, Dec. 18, 2009, which will include food and drink, followed on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2009, by the Hash (meet at Bank of Guam in Garapan at 3pm). There will be an eagle (hard) and turkey (not so hard) trail, followed by a sumptuous buffet dinner with lots of food and drink as well as music and dancing.

On Sunday, there will be a recovery hash followed by a potluck picnic. The Palms Resort will provide the venue for the parties and will also have special room rates. There will also be a Darkside (pub crawl) hash on Friday night after the cocktail party; however, this is pay as you go. If you wish only to attend the Saturday Hash, the cost is $65.

For more information contact Bobbi Grizzard at 483-9464. ***(PR)***

Sobriety checkpoint on Sunday

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting DUI/Sobriety Check Points on Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009.

The first setup will be Beach Road Chalan Laulau by the B/R Auto Shop Intersection, from 9:30pm to 10:45pm. The second setup will be on Middle Road 2W Chalan Laulau by Trans-America, from 11:45pm to 1am. Each checkpoint will last 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes) at each location.

Traffic officers will also conduct highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, aggressive driver interdiction and laser activities. ***(DPS)***

Designated driver program begins

This holiday season, the Department of Public Safety 3D Prevention Campaign will conduct its designated driver program every weekend on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays beginning today, Dec. 11. The DD Program will also be available throughout the holidays until Jan. 10, 2010. For more information, contact the Department of Public Safety Traffic Section at 664-9084/85 or call 664-9023/22. ***(DPS)***

Indigenous issues in talk show

Marianas Agupa, a Chamorro talk show program hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature John Del Rosario Jr., who will be discussing the CNMI descent group movement and other issues affecting the rights and opportunities of CNMI indigenous people on Dec. 12, 2009, between 10am and 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, e-mail marianasagupa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

OES PTSA meeting

The PTSA Officers of Oleai Elementary School Would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009, at 6:15pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ***(PR)***

Pesticide applicators' workshop

There will be a workshop for agricultural pesticide applicators from Dec. 15 to 18, 2009, at the Rota NMC campus, from 8am to 4:30pm.

All commercial agriculture farmers, ranchers, gardeners and government agencies who use and apply general use and restricted use pesticides are urged to attend. Participants who attend and complete the training course and pass the examinations will be eligible to be certified to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides.

This workshop is sponsored by the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality and Northern Marianas College, National Institute of Food and Agricultural, and CREES. For more information, call Arnold Route (NMC-CREES) at 234-5498 Ext. 1432, DEQ's Reina Camacho at 664-8522, or Alejandro Badilles (NMC CREES Rota) at 532-9513 or 8279513. ***(PR)***

Red Cross Health & Safety Training

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training for the month December 2009:

- Infant & Child CPR – Dec. 19, 2009, Saturday. 8am – 1pm
- Adult CPR – Dec. 22, 2009, Tuesday, 6pm – 10pm
- First Aid – Dec. 29, 2009, Tuesday, 6pm – 10pm

The training fee for Adult CPR and First Aid is $30 per person/per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is $35 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is $5 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

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GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BA ITO?

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UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR	UTILITY LUMBER TREATED
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2X6X14 - $7.60	2X6X12 - $10.00
2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X14 - $11.00
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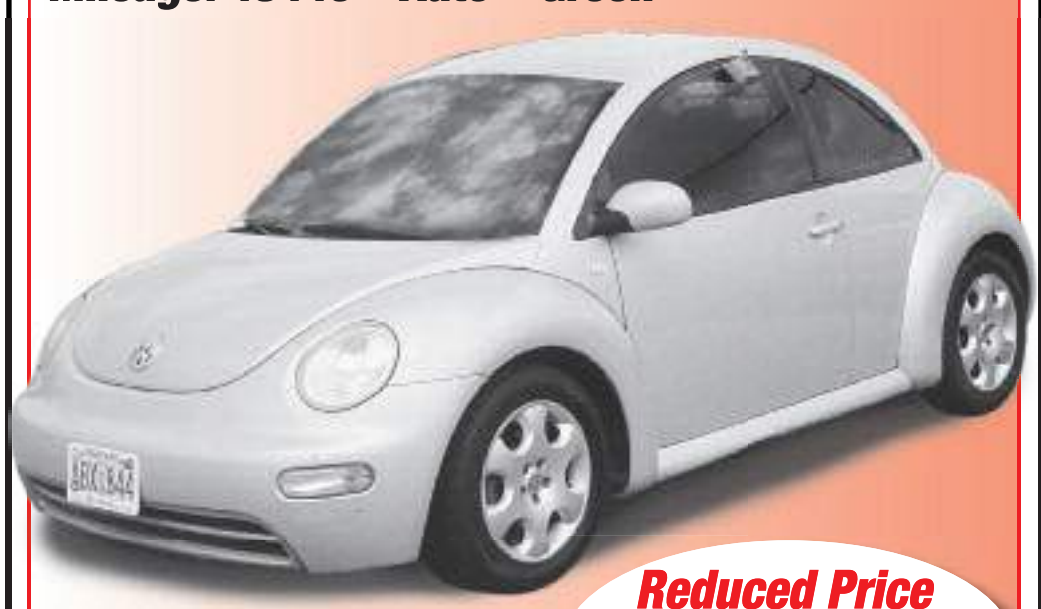

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Reduced Price $5,999

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OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	6,999
LEXUS								
U09-084P	2006	LEXUS IS250 4DR SDN	AUTO	32134	SILVER	ACJ-843	24,999	
GM VAN								
GM6-027L	2006	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15-PAX	AUTO	106929	WHITE	BUS-1163	13,699	

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TOYOTA ACDelco

New name unveiled for retail giant: Joeten Superstore

Effective tomorrow, Dec. 12, Joeten Enterprises Inc. will retire the name "Price Costco" in favor of a new nam—Joeten Superstore—for its popular warehouse retail store in San Jose, Saipan.

Joeten Enterprises has operated Price Costco under a sublicense from Pricesmart Inc. since December 1994. The right to use the trademark name expires this year, though the license agreement with Pricesmart stays in place until 2021.

"Although the name of Saipan's Price Costco has changed, there will be no change in ownership, nor management's commitment to bring our customers the same quality merchandise from the States at very competitive prices," said Annie T. Sablan, president and chief executive officer of Joeten Enterprises.

Joeten Development Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Joeten Enterprises Inc., built the warehouse club store on Saipan and held a grand opening on May 5, 1995.

Jason Sablan, general manager of Joeten Superstore, said, "With the name change, customers can expect to see a renewed enthusiasm from management and staff as we continue to provide customers with the best shopping experience in the islands." He said the name change was an evolution of the relationship with Pricesmart that represents positive retail growth for the Joeten group of companies and for Saipan.

In conjunction with the name change to Joeten Superstore, Sablan announced a two-day celebration sale for Friday and Saturday, Dec. 11 and 12. Sablan said this is a special departure from normal business for the store, which already offers large discounts built into regular pricing. Joeten Superstore will have blanket discounts on certain departments, such as 20 percent off watches, 15 percent off housewares and 10 percent off office supplies. The store will also have giveaways, balloons for children and a food fair.

Joeten Enterprises is a diversified company, based on Saipan, which owns and operates businesses throughout the Mariana Islands. They include supermarkets, a department store, a warehouse retail store, hardware stores, car dealerships, automotive parts and services stores, a construction and concrete supply company, sporting goods stores, a clothing boutique. Joeten Enterprises also has significant holdings in hotels, insurance, financing, real estate and shipping.

Joeten Enterprises, which celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2009, prides itself as perhaps the largest contributor year after year to charitable causes in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The company began in 1949 when Jose Camacho "Joeten" Tenorio and his wife, Soledad Duenas "Daidai" Takai, opened a small mom-and-pop store in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. ***(PR)***

A photograph of the former Price Costco store in San Jose, Saipan, has the new name—"Joeten Superstore"—digitally superimposed to show how the building will appear once the signage is changed.

CNMI gets $64,350 for emergency food, shelter program

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has been awarded federal funds for its Emergency Food & Shelter National Board Program.

The CNMI has been chosen to receive $64,350 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs on the island. These funds were made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; The Salvation Army; United Jewish Communities and, United Way of America.

The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A local board made up of Karidat, Guma Esperansa, Department of Community & Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services, American Red Cross, Saipan Mayor's Office and Council of Churches has determined how the funds awarded to CNMI are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds.

Under the terms and conditions of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board.

The CNMI has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with the DYS, Karidat and Guma Esperansa, Saipan Mayor's Office and the American Red Cross. These agencies were responsible for providing mass shelter services, rental assistance emergency food assistance and utility assistance programs. ***(PR)***

JOETEN SUPERSTORE

• Food Fair
• Giveaway
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Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan:

Enactment of Public Law No. 111-84 Doubles Military Academy Openings Available to Students from the CNMI

Become an Officer – 4 Slots Available – Apply Now

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AND LEARN

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is accepting applications from students seeking a nomination to one of the four U.S. service academies: Air Force Academy, Military Academy, Naval Academy and Merchant Marine Academy for the class entering Fall 2010. These academies offer students a first-rate and entirely free college education and the opportunity to receive an officer's commission in the U.S. Armed Forces upon graduation.

Who Qualifies:

- U.S. citizens
- High school graduates
- Between 17 to 23 years old
- Unmarried
- No dependents

What You Need:

- A sound academic background
- The ability to pass a physical aptitude test
- High moral character
- Strong leadership potential

Join the growing number of Officers from the Mariana Islands. (L-R) U.S. Naval Academy Midshipman 3rd Class Jonathan Jake Castro Tenorio, U.S. Navy Lieutenant Paul Sablan Duenas and Ensign Jun Vicente Mihara Chong, Jr.

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms and information on how to apply can be found on Congressman Sablan's website – Sablan.house.gov. Students interested in applying for a nomination may also contact Sablan's office in Washington toll free at (877) 446-3465 or his district office in Saipan at 323-2647/8. Prospective nominees are strongly encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible.

Paid for by official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Laolao Bay Resort gives $60,000 to CHC Volunteers

By JOVAN I. FRED
jovan_fred@saipantribune.com
REPORTER-TRAINEE

Saipan LauLau Development Inc., the parent company of Laolao Bay Resort in Kagman, donated $60,000 to the CHC Volunteers on Dec. 3, 2009. The money will be added to the funds the association is raising to buy a hyperbaric chamber for the Commonwealth Health Center.

Saipan LauLau Development Inc. president Yun "Alex" Kim turned over the check to members of the CHC Volunteers Association led by Annie M. Benavente, saying the association's project will be of great use to residents.

"Saipan LauLau Development, Inc. is always continually looking at ways to recognize and help the many achievements of various civic organizations in the Commonwealth," said Kim. "One area we are aware of that is sometimes missed is the work the CHC Volunteers Association carries out at the [hospital] and in the community. The hospital volunteers have a long-standing, major commitment to addressing health and community needs. This commitment has been demonstrated through the development of exceptional programs and activities that go well beyond their traditional service role and they also reach communities and residents whose needs are not being met by the health system."

Speaking for the CHC Volunteers, Benavente said the association members are humbled for being chosen to be the recipient of such a generous contribution.

"A few weeks back, the CNMI experienced a horrible nightmare and many if not all of us…felt threatened and unsure of our safety. However, with this action from the kindness of such companies such as Saipan LauLau Development Inc. and leadership of such giving and caring individuals such as Mr. Yun "Alex" Kim, it assures us that there are good people out there that thinks of the community as a whole," she said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan LauLau Development Inc. president Yun "Alex" Kim, center, turns over a $60,000 check to members of the CHC Volunteers Association on Dec. 3, 2009.

Benavente said the CHC Volunteers Association is collaborating with Dr. George P. Macris toward the acquisition of a hyperbaric chamber for the hospital.

"The hyperbaric chamber will be beneficial to the community and to the tourism industry as well. We truly appreciate and are grateful to Mr. Yun "Alex" Kim and his management as well his company…for giving our association such a large contribution."

Saipan LauLau Development Inc.'s mother company is Kumho Asiana, whose motto is "Contribute to the Community."

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB10-GOV- 004

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the **CENTRAL GARAPAN WATERLINE REPLACEMENT** in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his CNMI Business License in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Commerce and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from EDA and OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Replace 50 service laterals and 16 water meters, with 65 water meters relocations.
- Install gate valves, fittings, for new 9 fire hydrants and connections to existing water mains at various locations.
- Install 3,130 linear feet of 8-inch PVC distribution pipe and 2,800 linear feet of 6-inch PVC distribution pipe.
- Abandon in-place of old asbestos cement pipe (ACP).
- Restore disturbed asphalt paving, concrete curbs and gutters.
- Conduct the area topographic and easement surveys.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **December 4, 2009** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.**, on **December 18, 2009**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **December 17, 2009.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB10-GOV-004**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **January 4, 2010.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time January 4, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 4, 2010**, and must be received no later than **January 18, 2010.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **January 19, 2010.** However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **January 5, 2010.**

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
To Andrew Fojas: You may be 30, but you'll always be flirty! Advance happy birthday Dru! We heart you! From your BANANA Dorks and Fambizzle!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Special birthday greetings to Jobe T. Reyes, who is celebrating his 11th birthday today, Dec. 11, 2009! Enjoy your special day and we wish you many more years to come. We love you and God bless you on your special day! Greetings come from your families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 21st birthday to "Chada" Joshua John S. Duenas! Hope you have a great one! Party on! Lots of love from your sweethearts Thonx & Chas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A special first birthday shoutout to our "Ninja Boy" Zion Stone Lifoifoi Camacho. We love you waaaaaaay pass the moon and back. You make life worth living for. Greetings come from your ever so awesome family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
To Manny Sablan: Men are like wine: some turn to vinegar, but the best improve with age! Belated happy birthday to Manny Sablan! We love you! From your hooooot wife, your beautiful girls, and your favorite BANANA Dorks!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday to Lourdes Santos Hocog—affectionately known as "Nan Diding"—who is celebrating her 75th birthday today, Dec. 11. Warm greetings come from your entire family! Photo shows birthday celebrant Lourdes Santos Hocog with son, professional billiards player Victor "The Hawk" Hocog. Wishing you the best on your special day!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to the Magnum Smashers for being the champion in the Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament 2009. We are proud of you guys! Greetings come from your good friends.

Business

Administration extends $700B bailout until Oct.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration has extended the $700 billion financial bailout program until October, setting up a struggle between Democrats who favor using some of the leftover money to help generate jobs and Republicans who say it should be used to shrink soaring budget deficits.

The administration insists the bailout fund is still needed to prevent further turmoil in the banking system. In announcing the decision Wednesday, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said extending the program also will help homeowners struggling to avoid losing homes to foreclosures and small businesses having trouble getting loans.

The decision came on the same day the administration acknowledged two key bailout programs lost a total of $61 billion. The bailout of insurance giant American International Group Inc. and the lifeline thrown to struggling automakers each cost more than $30 billion, according to Treasury data disclosed in a report from the Government Accountability Office.

The administration is now projecting the losses to the government from the bailout program will be around $141 billion—$200 billion less than it estimated two months ago.

President Barack Obama said the freed-up money can help reduce the record-high federal budget deficit and "invest in job creation on Main Street rather than Wall Street."

Feds target rating agencies' role in meltdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—Enforcement officials from the Securities and Exchange Commission and Justice Department said Wednesday that their staffs are targeting the role of Wall Street rating agencies in the financial meltdown.

The three dominant agencies—Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings—have been widely criticized for failing to give investors adequate warning of the risks in subprime mortgage securities, whose collapse touched off the financial crisis.

SEC Enforcement Director Robert Khuzami told the Senate Judiciary Committee that his staff is "looking very closely at credit rating agencies" and is "focused on that area."

A 2007 law empowers the SEC to bring enforcement actions against rating agencies based on false statements they may have made, he said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney General Lanny Breuer said the Justice Department also is "looking at" rating agencies.

New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo pursued the three big Wall Street raters last year, securing an agreement from them to overhaul how they evaluate investments backed by risky mortgage debt. The accord was meant to end what the industry calls "ratings shopping" that pits the agencies against one another.

The agencies are crucial financial gatekeepers. Their grades of creditworthiness can be key factors in determining at what cost securities will be purchased by banks, mutual funds, state pension funds or local governments.

House debates bank oversight changes

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House on Wednesday night began debating legislation that would overhaul Wall Street regulations, overcoming a last-minute revolt by moderate Democrats that had stalled one of the Obama administration's priorities.

The legislation, the most sweeping rewrite of banking regulations since Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presidency, would give regulators the tools they say they need to prevent a recurrence of last year's financial crisis.

It cleared its first test vote late in the day by a nearly party-line 235-177 count. With about 30 amendments ahead of them, lawmakers were not expected to vote on final passage until Friday.

The Democratic bill would create a Financial Services Oversight Council to monitor the financial system and watch for future threats. Large, interconnected firms would have to put more money into their reserves. They would have to feed a fund that pays the costs of dismantling a failing competitor. And even if healthy, they could be forced to downsize if they are deemed a grave threat to the economy.

The bill would remove consumer regulations from current banking regulators and place them in a new Consumer Finance Protection Agency with powers to oversee the public's dealings with lenders. Derivatives, complicated financial instruments, would be traded in more regulated exchanges and hedge funds would have to be registered.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

BofA repays $45B in government bailout funds

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Bank of America Corp. said Wednesday it has repaid the entire $45 billion it owed U.S. taxpayers as part of the Troubled Asset Relief Program. Bank of America, which announced its agreement with the U.S. Treasury to repay TARP last week, funded the repayment through a combination of cash on hand and the sale of $19.29 billion of securities that would convert into common stock. The stock increase remains subject to shareholder approval. In a prepared statement, CEO Ken Lewis said the company cleared a key hurdle in demonstrating the economy's broader health, and said the bank looks "forward to continuing to play a key role in the economic recovery."

Stocks climb as investors shrug off debt concerns

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors set aside some of their concerns about rising debt levels around the world and looked for bargains after a two-day slide in stocks. Stocks turned higher late Wednesday after trading erratically, and the Dow Jones industrials closed up 51 points. Investors have been cautious about rising government debt levels in Spain, Greece and other countries. Investors started out looking for safety after Standard & Poor's reduced the outlook on Spain's debt rating. But analyst upgrades of manufacturing conglomerate 3M Co. and telecommunications company Sprint Nextel Corp. drew some buyers.

GM replaces Chevy brand manager after 5 months

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors has replaced its Chevrolet brand manager after just five months as it continues to shake up top management. GM said in a statement Wednesday that James Campbell will now lead the company's largest and most important brand. Campbell replaces Brent Dewar, who will retire April 1 to spend more time with family and pursue personal interests. Dewar, Chevrolet's global vice president, was named to the post in July by former CEO Fritz Henderson. Henderson abruptly resigned under pressure on Dec. 1 and was replaced on an interim basis by CEO and Chairman Ed Whitacre Jr.

NOTICE TO ALL ALIENS IN THE CNMI

Pursuant to P.L. 110-229, the U.S. Department of the Interior is required to report to the U.S. Congress regarding the number of aliens within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
P.L.110-229 further orders the U.S. Department of Interior to make recommendations to the U.S. Congress regarding the long-term status of aliens who were physically present in the CNMI on November 28, 2009.

Accordingly, the Office of the Ombudsman will be conducting an accounting of all aliens within the CNMI pursuant to the schedule below. For purposes of the accounting, alien means any person physically present in the CNMI who does not hold a U.S. passport or U.S. permanent resident card regardless of any Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands permit held.

When reporting to the Ombudsman's office at Suite 203, Marina Heights II, Puerto Rico, Saipan, an alien must provide a copy of a passport or other photo identification.

Any alien, who cannot report to the Ombudsman's office during the scheduled time, should call 322-8030 for further information.

All data shall be gathered between December 14th and December 30th 2009. There will be no exceptions to the December 30th deadline.

SCHEDULE OF REGISTRATION

LAST NAMES STARTING WITH	DATE	TIME
A - B	14-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN
C - D	15-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN
E - F	16-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN
G - H	17-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN
I - J	18-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN
K - L	19-Dec-2009	9 AM TO 5 PM
M - N	20-Dec-2009	9 AM TO 5 PM
O - P	21-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN

LAST NAMES STARTING WITH	DATE	TIME
Q - R	22-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN
S - T	23-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN
U - V	24-Dec-2009	3 PM TO 7 PM
W - X	26-Dec-2009	9 AM TO 5 PM
Y - Z	27-Dec-2009	9 AM TO 5 PM
Mandarin and Tagalog	28-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN
Mandarin and Tagalog	29-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN

PAUNAWA SA LAHAT NG DAYUHAN SA CNMI

Alinsunod sa P.L. 110-229, ang U.S. Department of Interior ay kinakailangang mag report sa U.S. Congress patungkol sa bilang ng dayuhan sa Commonwealth ng Northern Mariana Islands. Iniuutos din ng P.L. 110-229 na ang Department of Interior ay gumawa ng rekomendasyon sa U.S. Congress patungkol sa pang-matagalang kalagayan ng mga dayuhan na pisikal na nasa CNMI noong Nobyembre 28, 2009.

Dahil dito, ang Office ng Ombudsman ay magsasagawa ng accounting ng lahat ng dayuhan sa CNMI alinsunod sa iskedyul sa baba. Para sa layunin ng accounting, and dayuhan ay ang sinumang tao na pisikal na nasa CNMI na walang hawak na U.S passport o U.S. permanent resident card kahit pa may anumang permit ng Commonwealth ng Northern Mariana Islands na hinawakan.

Kapag nag report sa Ombudsman's Office sa Suite 203, Marina Heights II, Puerto Rico, Saipan, ang dayuhan ay kinakailangang magbigay ng kopya ng passport o anumang pagkakakilanlan na may litrato.

Ang sinumang dayuhan na hindi makakapag report sa Ombudsman's office sa itinakdang iskedyul, ay kinakailangang tumawag sa 322-8030 para sa karagdagang impormasyon.

Lahat ng impormasyon ay kinakailangang makuha mula ika-14 ng Disyembre hanggang ika-30 ng Disyembre 2009. Walang magiging exceptions sa deadline na ika-30 ng Disyembre.

ISKEDYUL NG PAGREREHISTRO

MGA APELYIDONG NAGSISIMULA SA	PETSA	ORAS
A - B	14-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN
C - D	15-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN
E - F	16-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN
G - H	17-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN
I - J	18-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN
K - L	19-Dec-2009	9 AM TO 5 PM
M - N	20-Dec-2009	9 AM TO 5 PM
O - P	21-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN

MGA APELYIDONG NAGSISIMULA SA	PETSA	ORAS
Q - R	22-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN
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U - V	24-Dec-2009	3 PM TO 7 PM
W - X	26-Dec-2009	9 AM TO 5 PM
Y - Z	27-Dec-2009	9 AM TO 5 PM
Mandarin at Tagalog	28-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN
Mandarin at Tagalog	29-Dec-2009	4 PM TO 12 MN

公告

致所有在北马里亚纳群岛联邦境内的外籍人士

根据公法 110-229，美国内政部需要向美国国会报告北马里亚纳群岛联邦的外籍人口数目。公法 110-229 进一步要求美国内政部，对关于 2009 年 11 月 28 日身处北马里亚纳群岛联邦境内的外籍人士的长期身份问题，向美国国会提供建议。

因此，监察官办公室（人权办）将会根据以下时间表对所有在北马里亚纳群岛联邦境内的外籍人口进行统计。为了方便统计，一位外籍人士应是目前身处北马里亚纳群岛联邦境内的，无论持有任何北马里亚纳群岛联邦的白卡身份，但却没有美国护照（即美国公民身份）或美国永久居民卡（即美国绿卡身份）的任何人士。

当来到位于塞班岛波多黎各区、马里纳 2 号大楼 203 号的监察官办公室（人权办）登记时，每位外籍人士必须提供一份护照的复印件或其他带照片的身份证明。

任何外籍人士，如果不能在预定安排时间内向监察官办公室（人权办）登记的，应打电话 322-8030 以取得更多信息。

所有资料将会在 2009 年 12 月 14 日至 12 月 30 日之内收集完毕。对 12 月 30 日的最终期限将不会有任何例外。

登记时间表

姓氏开头的第一个字母	日期	时间
A - B	2009 年 12 月 14 日	下午 4 点 至 午夜 12 点
C - D	2009 年 12 月 15 日	下午 4 点 至 午夜 12 点
E - F	2009 年 12 月 16 日	下午 4 点 至 午夜 12 点
G - H	2009 年 12 月 17 日	下午 4 点 至 午夜 12 点
I - J	2009 年 12 月 18 日	下午 4 点 至 午夜 12 点
K - L	2009 年 12 月 19 日	上午 9 点 至 下午 5 点
M - N	2009 年 12 月 20 日	上午 9 点 至 下午 5 点
O - P	2009 年 12 月 21 日	下午 4 点 至 午夜 12 点

姓氏开头的第一个字母	日期	时间
Q - R	2009 年 12 月 22 日	下午 4 点 至 午夜 12 点
S - T	2009 年 12 月 23 日	下午 4 点 至 午夜 12 点
U - V	2009 年 12 月 24 日	下午 3 点 至 下午 7 点
W - X	2009 年 12 月 26 日	上午 9 点 至 下午 5 点
Y - Z	2009 年 12 月 27 日	上午 9 点 至 下午 5 点
中文和菲律宾语服务	2009 年 12 月 28 日	下午 4 点 至 午夜 12 点
中文和菲律宾语服务	2009 年 12 月 29 日	下午 4 点 至 午夜 12 点

Nation

Obama, other Dems praise new health compromise

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama as well as Democratic liberals and moderates all found something to like Wednesday in an emerging compromise to expand the role of government in the nation's health care system, raising hopes inside the party that passage of overhaul legislation might be within reach after a struggle lasting decades.

The same plan drew critics, though—and the threat of more opponents once closely held details become widely known.

Obama hailed "a creative new framework that I believe will help pave the way for final passage of legislation and a historic achievement for the American people." He said, "I support this effort, especially since it's aimed at increasing choice and competition and lowering cost."

A provision opening Medicare to uninsured Americans between the ages of 55 and 64 drew praise from some liberals.

Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., called it "an unvarnished, complete victory for people like me who have been arguing for a single-payer system."

Howard Dean, the former party chairman and an advocate of a government-run insurance option, told CBS, "Using Medicare makes more sense than reinventing more bureaucracy."

The idea of a full-blown government-run insurance option, heatedly debated for months, would be jettisoned under the tentative agreement reached by Senate Democratic liberals and moderates and announced Tuesday night. In its place would be the expansion of Medicare, as well as new nationwide private plans to be run by the same agency that oversees the system that lawmakers use for themselves and their families.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., accompanied by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., right, and Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin of Ill., talks with reporters outside the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009, following a meeting with President Barack Obama.

AP

Petraeus reveals boost in US counterterror effort

WASHINGTON (AP)—The rapid U.S. build up in the Afghan war will include more terrorist-hunting forces to chase down militants deemed too extreme to change sides, a top U.S. general revealed on Wednesday.

"There's no question you've got to kill or capture those bad guys that are not reconcilable," Gen. David Petraeus, the chief of U.S. Central Command, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "And we are intending to do that."

Petraeus

In his first congressional testimony on President Barack Obama's announced plan to send another 30,000 troops to Afghanistan, Petraeus also cautioned that progress against probably will be slower than during the build up of U.S. forces in Iraq two years ago, and the war will be "harder before it gets easier."

Petraeus said that in addition to an effort to "reintegrate" Taliban and other insurgents into mainstream Afghan society, there will be a harder push to eliminate the most hardcore extremists.

"In fact, we actually will be increasing our counterterrorist component of the overall strategy," Petraeus said. He provided no details beyond saying that additional "national mission force elements" would be sent to Afghanistan next spring.

Petraeus appeared to be referring to classified units such as the Army's Delta Force that specialize in counterterrorism and that have been used extensively in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, who now oversees the Afghan war and is scheduled to testify Thursday before a House committee, previously headed up those units inside Iraq and Afghanistan.

Storm dumps snow on Midwest, bitter cold to follow

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—A gigantic storm dumped more than a foot of snow across much of the Midwest and New England as it marched eastward Wednesday, creating blizzard conditions, burying cars under huge drifts and providing ammunition for a massive campus snowball fight in Wisconsin.

Even more snow fell in some areas, with 16 inches reported in Des Moines and nearly 19 inches just south of Madison, Wis. Gusts of up to 50 mph created snow drifts between 8 and 15 feet tall and even knocked down a two-story Christmas tree in downtown Champaign, Ill.

The storm was blamed for at least 16 deaths, most in traffic accidents. Hundreds of schools canceled classes, power was knocked out to thousands of people from Missouri to New York and hundreds of flights were canceled.

In the Twin Cities, where about 6 inches of snow fell and the wind chill dipped to minus 9 degrees, Kent Barnard eased a massive orange snowplow into traffic in the suburb of Arden Hills on Wednesday morning. He dropped the right wing of the plow down onto the shoulder, making a grinding sound as the wing sent out a spray of snow.

"You gotta watch it because some people try to sneak up around you," Barnard said. "They'll see that big orange flashing truck coming and go, 'I don't want to get caught behind that thing.'"

The storm felt like a rude surprise after an unseasonably warm and dry November in parts of the region. The massive system is the first major blast of wintry weather for many parts of the Midwest.

ACROSS THE NATION

Five missing Americans probed for terror links

WASHINGTON (AP)—Five young American Muslims captured in Pakistan are under investigation for possible links to terrorism after their families found a disturbing farewell video the missing men left behind showing scenes of war and casualties and saying Muslims must be defended. Frantic relatives and worried FBI agents have been searching for the five men for more than a week, since their disappearance in late November. The missing men, ranging in age from 19 to 25, have family roots in the northern Virginia and Washington, D.C., area. One, Ramy Zamzam, is a dental student at Howard University. Two U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case, said the five are believed to be under arrest in Pakistan.

House votes to extend $31B in expiring tax breaks

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House voted Wednesday to extend $31 billion in popular tax breaks, including an income tax deduction for sales and property taxes, to be financed with a tax increase on investment fund managers and a crackdown on international tax cheats. The 45 tax deductions and credits for businesses and individuals are scheduled to expire at year's end. The House voted 241-181 to extend them for a year, with only two Republicans voting in favor. The bill now goes to the Senate, which has rejected the tax increase on investment managers in the past. The tax breaks include a sales tax deduction that mainly helps people in the nine states without local income taxes, a property tax deduction for people who don't itemize and lucrative credits that help businesses finance research and development. The nine states without a state income tax are Alaska, Florida, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Texas, Tennessee, Washington and Wyoming.

SC lawmakers nix Sanford impeachment, back rebuke

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford dodged impeachment Wednesday but was scolded by legislators for his travels to see a mistress in Argentina and his misuse of state planes. A legislative panel voted down a measure to impeach the two-term Republican, opting instead to recommend a formal rebuke for bringing the state "ridicule, dishonor, disgrace and shame." "We can't impeach for hypocrisy. We can't impeach for arrogance. We can't impeach an officeholder for his lack of leadership skills," said Rep. James Harrison, a fellow Republican who headed the panel.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on its listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies who wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Certified Current Financial Statement
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Forms
4. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
5. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
6. Workmen's Compensation Policy
7. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
8. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts including three (3) reference letters from owners of the projects
9. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them
10. The company's total years in the construction business
11. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY JANUARY 11, 2010 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS".

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal housing provider, lender and employer.

TOTTOTVILLE PROPERTY FOR SALE

2nd NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Anthony P. Sonoda and Lorraine Anne C. Sonoda now known as Lorraine Anne T. Cabrera, (collectively "Trustor"), on or about March 11, 2002 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, formerly known as the Mariana Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on March 11, 2002 under Document No. 02-585 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 019 I 30, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 948 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN ON THE SURVEY PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF LOT 019 I 04, DLS CHECK NO. 019 I 02, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS FILED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE, AS FILE NO. 91-2320, ON MAY 13, 1991.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on January 21, 2009. More than thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on **Friday, December 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan** under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **Ninety-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred Twelve and 00/100 ($97,812.00)**, the total amount due under the VA loan.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within 72 hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC. The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 16th day of November, 2009.

/S/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director, NMHC

Atty Robert Myers (F0365)
The Law Office of RH Myers Jr
Summer Holiday Hotel #104
P.O Box 5190 Saipan MP 96950

Tel (670) 234-3184 x 104
Fax (670) 234-3077

Counsel for Administratrix
ANGELICA SABLAN IBA

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: DAVID SALAS SABLAN, Deceased.) Case No. 01-0324-CV

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON AMENDED PETITION FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTUION
Date: January 5, 2010
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Judge: Hon. Ramona V. Manglona

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Administratrix has filed an Amended Petition for final distribution in this Estate, which shall be heard on January 5, 2010 at 9:00a.m. in Courtroom 220A in the Commonwealth Superior Court, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons should come and attend the hearing.

Dated this 2nd day of December, 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Commonwealth Superior Court

Asia

AP

Protesters march with mock coffins symbolizing the 57 massacre victims for a rally at the National Bureau of Investigation in Manila, Philippines, where a principal accused in the killings is currently detained, to mark the United Nations declaration of International Human Rights Day Thursday Dec. 10, 2009.

Philippines names 100 more suspects in massacre

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police named 100 government militiamen as additional suspects in the Philippines' worst political massacre Wednesday as prosecutors filed rebellion charges against a powerful clan accused of ordering the brutal attack on a rival's campaign convoy.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's top Cabinet officials appeared before lawmakers to defend her proclamation of martial law in southern Maguindanao province, where 57 people were killed, some left sprawled on the ground and others buried in mass graves.

Critics called the martial law declaration a dangerous precedent, but Cabinet members said it was needed to stave off a rebellion by the Ampatuan family, the main suspects in the Nov. 23 killings, and their thousands-strong private armies ready to fight the government.

The Ampatuan clan gained notoriety for intimidating political opponents and protecting their turf, which until the massacre made any action against them impossible.

The head of the Philippines' independent Commission on Human Rights, Leila de Lima, said her office had received a letter from anonymous citizens blaming the Ampatuans for at least 200 other killings in the area in the past decade. De Lima cautioned that the allegations had not been validated and did not provide details but said she would investigate.

She said her office had asked the elder Ampatuan to comment on the allegations but he never responded.

Witnesses in custody have identified Andal Ampatuan Jr., a scion of the clan, as leader of a group of government militiamen who attacked a rival's convoy in Ampatuan township, said national police chief Jesus Verzosa.

The dead included 30 journalists and their staff.

According to the witnesses, Ampatuan himself shot some of the victims. The bodies bore bullet wounds in the mouth and chest fired from close range, Verzosa said.

US envoy says talks with NKorea 'very useful'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A senior U.S. envoy said Thursday his talks with North Korea were "very useful," a report said, as he wrapped up a rare trip to the communist nation aimed at prodding it back to international nuclear negotiations.

Envoy Stephen Bosworth made the remark at an airport in Pyongyang as he headed to South Korea after a three-day trip, according to China's Xinhua news agency. "It was a very useful set of meetings," he was quoted as saying.

Still, it was unclear if his comment means success in his mission to win North Korea's commitment to return to international nuclear negotiations. Pyongyang walked away from the talks earlier this year, angered by criticism of its nuclear and missile programs. A nuclear test soon followed.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said in a one-sentence dispatch that Bosworth's delegation had left.

Bosworth and Washington's chief nuclear negotiator, Sung Kim, smiled lightly while shaking hands with North Korean officials at the airport before getting on a bus and then onto their plane, footage from broadcaster APTN in North Korea showed.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taliban threaten South Korea over Afghan troops

KABUL (AP)—The Taliban have threatened to retaliate against South Korea for its decision to send troops back into Afghanistan. A statement e-mailed to media outlets late Wednesday said that South Korea's leaders "should be prepared for the consequence of their action, which they will certainly face." South Korea has pledged to send 350 troops next year to protect its civilian aid workers. The country has had no forces in Afghanistan since 2007, when it withdrew some 200 troops. The pullout, though previously planned, followed a hostage standoff in which the Taliban killed two South Koreans after demanding Seoul immediately withdraw troops.

Kabul mayor still in office despite conviction

KABUL (AP)—President Hamid Karzai's promise to fight the rampant graft and bribery plaguing his government has hit a road bump—right down the street from his palace. Despite a corruption conviction, the mayor of Kabul remains in charge of the Afghan capital. Karzai has called for an end to a "culture of impunity" and said his government was committed to bringing to justice corrupt officials and abuse of public property. Yet the government's inability to block Mayor Abdul Ahad Sahebi from his job underscores the weakness of the Karzai administration. Sahebi was found guilty on Monday of awarding a contract for a city project without competition. An Afghan court sentenced him to four years in jail and ordered him to repay more than $16,000 involved in the contract. Prosecutors have threatened to send police to the mayor's office Thursday if he doesn't step down.

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
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First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg. Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Plaintiff

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC., Plaintiff, v. **JOAN M. SABLAN**, Defendant.	CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0154 **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on May 4, 2009 and a Writ of Execution issued on July 1, 2009 in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendant, **Joan M. Sablan** in and to the following real properties located at Saipan, Northern Mariana, Islands:

Lot 003 I 14 (formerly lot 3 block 5), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 0033 I 00 the original of which was recorded on March 01, 1971, as Document No. 714 at Land Registry of Saipan, said property is located in San Antonio, Saipan containing improvements used as the personal residence of Mortgagor.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on December 11, 2009 at the hour 10:00 a.m. at the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan, MP 96950. The sale will be open to the general public.
Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.
Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and / or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenants, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither he undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages or any other remedy on account thereof.
Conduct of Sale.
a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price for any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs and the usages of the commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such a property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wschira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risks of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in the Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.
Enforcement of Auction Sale.
a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of the Law office of Danilo T. Aguilar within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
c. Court Approval. Every sale maybe subject to approval by the court. The Auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with the respect to court approval maybe granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.
d. Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 2nd day of November, 2009:

LAW OFFICE OF DANILO T. AGUILAR
By: /S/ DANILO T. AGUILAR
Auctioneer

SAIPAN, M.P.) ss

ON THIS 2ND day of November, 2009, before me, a Notary Public, in and for Saipan, Personally appeared DANILO T. AGUILAR, of the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, known to me to be the attorney for WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC., whose name is subscribed to the foregoing NOTICE OF SALE, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed on behalf of said corporation for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year first above written.

ARLEEN E. DYCOCO
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg. Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Plaintiff

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC., Plaintiff, v. **VINCENT A. MANGLONA AND BENITA A. MANGLONA**, Defendant.	CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0197 **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on May, 13, 2009 and a Writ of Execution issued on July 20, 2009 in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendant, **Vincent A. Manglona and Benita A. Manglona** in and to the following real properties located at Saipan, Northern Mariana, Islands:

Tract No. 20472-3, (formerly part of original Tract 20472, AH 506) as more particularly described on Drawing / Cadastral Plat No. 2031/81, the original of which was registered on January 16, 1981, as Document No. 11233 at Land Registry, Saipan, said property is located in San Vicente, Saipan, containing an area of 930 square meters, more or less.

Tract No. 081 E 02, as more particularly described on Drawing / Cadastral Plat No. 081 E 00, the original of which was recorded on September 13, 1998, as Document No. 88-2746A at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, said property is located in Sadog Tasi, Saipan containing an area of 1,672 square meters, more or less.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on December 11, 2009 at the hour 09:45.m. at the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan, MP 96950. The sale will be open to the general public.
Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.
Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and / or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenants, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither he undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages or any other remedy on account thereof.
Conduct of Sale.
a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price for any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs and the usages of the commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such a property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wschira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risks of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in the Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.
Enforcement of Auction Sale.
a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of the Law office of Danilo T. Aguilar within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
c. Court Approval. Every sale maybe subject to approval by the court. The Auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with the respect to court approval maybe granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.
d. Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 2nd day of November, 2009:

LAW OFFICE OF DANILO T. AGUILAR
By: /S/ DANILO T. AGUILAR
Auctioneer

SAIPAN, M.P.) ss

ON THIS 2ND day of November, 2009, before me, a Notary Public, in and for Saipan, Personally appeared DANILO T. AGUILAR, of the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, known to me to be the attorney for WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC., whose name is subscribed to the foregoing NOTICE OF SALE, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed on behalf of said corporation for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year first above written.

ARLEEN E. DYCOCO
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES

World

Honduras to let Zelaya leave country for Mexico

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Honduras' interim government said Wednesday night it has authorized ousted President Manuel Zelaya to leave the country and go to Mexico, and a Mexican official confirmed talks were under way on that possibility.

Zelaya told Radio Globo he was negotiating what he called a "consensual solution" to his stay in the Brazilian Embassy, where he has been holed up—surrounded by soldiers—since slipping back into Honduras on Sept. 21.

Zelaya said he had talked with both Mexican President Felipe Calderon and Dominican President Leonel Fernandez. The talks apparently centered on a dignified solution for Zelaya, who has refused any form of political asylum that might hinder his efforts to drum up opposition to the forces that removed him from the presidency in a coup June 28.

Zelaya said he wanted "a negotiated solution ... that respected the law, and respected my office" as president.

He suggested he wanted a status that would "allow me to continue my (political) actions abroad." He operated a sort of government-in-exile from other Latin American nations after being ousted.

"I will not accept any political asylum," Zelaya said, adding that he wanted "hospitality, as a guest, to continue my actions."

A spokesman for the Honduran Foreign Ministry, Milton Mateo, said Mexico had asked for a safe-conduct pass for Zelaya, who has been charged by the interim government with abuse of power. Mateo said the pass had been signed and would be delivered to the Brazilian Embassy, but Zelaya said he hadn't received it yet.

Mateo also said the Mexican government had sent an airplane to pick up Zelaya and his wife, Xiomara, and two of his children.

Islanders blocked in bid for tough climate action

COPENHAGEN (AP)—Declaring "it's a matter of survival," one of the world's tiniest nations, speaking for imperiled islands everywhere, took on global industrial and oil powers Wednesday at the U.N. climate conference—and lost.

"Madam President, the world is watching us. The time for procrastination is over," Ian Fry, delegate of the mid-Pacific state of Tuvalu, declared as he asked the full conference for more aggressive curbing of greenhouse gas emissions than is being considered.

The rejection illustrates the rich-poor divide that overshadows the conference, a reality that has already led some islands to consider evacuation should international action on climate ultimately fall short.

Specifically, Tuvalu asked to amend the 1992 U.N. climate treaty to require sharp reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, deeper than major powers are considering.

The amendment would have obliged the world's nations to keep global warming—the rise in temperatures accompanied by rising seas—to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels. That's just 0.75 degrees C (1.35 degrees F) higher than the increase to this point. Rich countries are aiming for emissions cuts that would limit warming to 2 degrees C (3.6 degrees F).

Iraq orders security shakeup after blasts

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's Western-backed government—facing intense pressure to address security lapses after suicide bombings killed 127 people in the capital—ordered a shake-up Wednesday in the country's military leadership.

The angry mood that led Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to replace Baghdad's top military commander reveals a stark psychological shift among Iraqis who once accepted such violence as routine and are now demanding someone pay a political price.

Al-Maliki appealed for Iraqis to be patient as he signaled more changes might be ahead for security officials. The prime minister was expected to attend a special parliamentary session Thursday, where lawmakers demanded his security ministers answer for lapses that allowed for the attacks.

"I call on the Iraqi people for more patience and steadfastness," al-Maliki said in a televised address.

It was unclear whether the replacement of Lt. Gen. Abboud Qanbar would quiet outraged lawmakers, who are questioning how suicide bombers managed to launch multiple attacks Tuesday in heavily guarded central Baghdad. The blasts wounded more than 500.

Much of al-Maliki's appeal was aimed at calming anger that has united Iraq's ethnic and sectarian rivals—from Kurd to Arab, Shiite to Sunni—with their calls on Iraq's interior and defense ministers to resign.

"They have proved failures," said Saadi al-Barzanji, a Kurdish lawmaker.

Even the group that Iraq has accused of masterminding this week's bombings as well as two previous major attacks has called on security officials to step down.

"He who cannot ensure security for Iraqis should leave," Baath party spokesman Khudair al-Murshidi told Al-Jazeera in an interview from Syria. Al-Murshidi has denied that loyalists of Saddam Hussein's Baath party were behind any of the attacks.

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
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Attorney for Plaintiff

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC. Plaintiff, v. **AARON D. TAWNEY AND AGNELIA P. TAWNEY** Defendant.

CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0268

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on May, 4 2009 and a Writ of Execution issued on July 1, 2009 in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendant, **Aaron D. Tawney and Agnelia P. Tawney** in and to the following real properties located at Saipan, Northern Mariana, Islands:

That certain indenture of lease made by Antonio S. Guerrero, as lesser, to Playford M. Ramsey and Kristin V. Ramsey, as lessee, by that assignment dated May 31, 1995 and recorded June 1, 1995 ad Document No. 95-13331 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan and assigned to Aaron Tawney and Agnelia P. Tawney, lessee, by that assignment dated 26 September, 2000 and recorder 13 October, 2000 as Document No. 2154 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan, demising and leasing for a term of 55 years beginning May 26, 1995 and ending May 25, 2050 the following described premises.

EA 148-1-20, (part of EA 148-1-R2, which was formerly part of EA 148-1-R1, which was part of original EA 148) Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing / Cadastral Plat No, 2097/95, the original of which was recorded May 9, 1995 as Document No. 95-1157 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan, said the property is located in I- Akgak Saipan, Northern Marianas island.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on December 11, 2009 at the hour 10:15 a.m. at the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan, MP 96950. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and / or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenants, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither he undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price for any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs and the usages of the commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such a property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wschira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risks of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in the Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of the Law office of Danilo T. Aguilar within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
c. Court Approval. Every sale maybe subject to approval by the court. The Auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with the respect to court approval maybe granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 2nd day of November, 2009:

LAW OFFICE OF DANILO T. AGUILAR
By: /S/ DANILO T. AGUILAR
Auctioneer

SAIPAN, M.P.) ss

ON THIS 2ND day of November, 2009, before me, a Notary Public, in and for Saipan, Personally appeared DANILO T. AGUILAR, of the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, known to me to be the attorney for WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC., whose name is subscribed to the foregoing NOTICE OF SALE, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed on behalf of said corporation for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year first above written.

ARLEEN E. DYCOCO
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
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Attorney for Plaintiff

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC. Plaintiff, v. **ANDRESINA BENAVENTE**, Defendant.

CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0271

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on May, 13, 2009 and a Writ of Execution issued on July 15, 2009 in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendant, **Andresina Benavente** in and to the following real properties located at Saipan, Northern Mariana, Islands:

E.A. 216-5-1, (formerly part of E.A. 216-5, which was part of E.A. 216), as more particularly described on Drawing / Cadastral Plat No. 2053/89, the original of which was recorded on 02 February as 1989, as Document No. 89-352, at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan, said property is located in As Perdido Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on December 11, 2009 at the hour 09:30 a.m. at the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan, MP 96950. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and / or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenants, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither he undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price for any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs and the usages of the commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such a property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wschira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risks of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in the Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of the Law office of Danilo T. Aguilar within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
c. Court Approval. Every sale maybe subject to approval by the court. The Auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with the respect to court approval maybe granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 2nd day of November, 2009:

LAW OFFICE OF DANILO T. AGUILAR
By: /S/ DANILO T. AGUILAR
Auctioneer

SAIPAN, M.P.) ss

ON THIS 2ND day of November, 2009, before me, a Notary Public, in and for Saipan, Personally appeared **DANILO T. AGUILAR**, of the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, known to me to be the attorney for **WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.**, whose name is subscribed to the foregoing **NOTICE OF SALE**, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed on behalf of said corporation for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year first above written.

ARLEEN E. DYCOCO
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WORLD BRIEFS

Iran says UN observatory near border is for spying

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran claimed Wednesday that a newly built U.N. station to detect nuclear explosions was set up near its border so that world powers could spy on the country, an accusation that underscored the growing bitterness in Tehran's relations with the West. Construction was completed last week on the seismic monitoring station in neighboring Turkmenistan, a few miles from the Iranian border. It is one of roughly 275 such facilities operating around the world to detect seismic activity set off by blasts from nuclear tests—such as ones in recent years by North Korea. Iran protested the facility even though it asserts it is not trying to produce nuclear arms. Tehran has been resisting heavy pressure in recent months to sign on to a U.N.-backed plan aimed at thwarting any attempt to build atomic weapons.

Canadian general says military knew of abuse risk

TORONTO (AP)—Canada's top general says there is evidence that a prisoner captured by the military in 2006 and handed over to Afghan authorities was abused. Gen. Walt Natynczyk's disclosure contradicts Defense Minister Peter MacKay's repeated insistence that not a single case of torture of detainees could be proven. The revelation raises questions about whether Canada violated international law by continuing to transfer prisoners to Afghan custody after it had evidence of abuse. Opposition parties stepped up calls for MacKay's resignation and are demanding a public inquiry. Natynczyk says he's launching an investigation into why neither he, nor his predecessor, Gen. Rick Hillier, saw a platoon commander's report, which detailed the prisoner's capture.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Christmas story: Boise boy licks pole, gets stuck

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—It's become an annual winter tale: A young boy gets his tongue stuck to a metal pole, perhaps as the result of a dare. This year, the scene straight out of the movie "A Christmas Story" unfolded Tuesday morning in Boise with a boy of about 10. Boise firefighters used a glass of warm water to free the unidentified boy from the metal fence pole. Fire Capt. Bill Tinsley says the boy's tongue was bleeding a little, but he was OK and allowed to continue walking to school. Firefighters estimate the boy was 10 years old. Rescue workers responded after a woman driving by saw the boy and called 911. Last year, the unlucky boy was a 10-year-old from Hammond, Ind., especially apt, since the 1983 movie is set in a fictional city based on Hammond.

Police: Man dresses up as mom to withdraw cash

FRANKLIN, N.J. (AP)—Police said a Franklin man dressed up as his mother in an attempt to withdraw money from her bank account. Tita Nyambi, 25, was still at the Chase Bank in Franklin, in Somerset County, when police arrived Monday afternoon. Tellers called to report that a man wearing women's clothes and speaking in a high pitched voice was trying to withdraw money through the bank's drive-through window. Police said Nyambi handed tellers his mother's license and a bank form forged with her signature. Nyambi was arrested and charged with forgery and attempted theft by deception. Franklin police Sgt. Philip Rizzo said Nyambi was wearing his mother's pink blouse, her black coat and head scarf. It could not be determined Tuesday whether Nyambi, who was still in jail, has an attorney. No phone listing for him could be found.

Some see divine sign in cow born at Conn. dairy

STERLING, Conn. (AP)—A holy cow in Connecticut, perhaps? Or maybe a divine bovine? A calf with a white marking on its forehead in the approximate shape of a cross was born last week at a dairy farm in Sterling, a small rustic town on the Rhode Island border. Owner Brad Davis told WFSB-TV he thinks the marking may be a message from above, though he's still trying to figure out what that message might be. The mostly brown calf is half Jersey, half Holstein. Neighborhood children have named it Moses. The chairman of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Dairy Science tells the Norwich Bulletin newspaper it's not unusual for a Holstein cow to have a white marking on its head. But department chairman Ric Grummer says the cross shape is unique.

Owner claims can holding $10K left at Iowa store

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—The owner of a tin can containing more than $10,000 that sat for four days on a Kmart service counter in Iowa has claimed the treasure. Authorities say Joe Heithoff may have been having a reaction to medication Nov. 29 when he inadvertently left a red tin can with $10,380 on the store's customer service counter. The can sat on the counter for four days before employees opened it last Thursday. Police took the can away Friday. Heithoff's wife, Margaret, called police early Tuesday to claim the missing money. Des Moines Police Detective Scott Anderson says Margaret Heithoff had heard someone talking about the found can on the radio. Anderson says she proved ownership by correctly describing several items that were in the can along with the money.

Book returned to Ohio library after 60 years

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—A book has been mailed back to an Ohio library after six decades, accompanied by an anonymous letter of remorse. The biography "Napoleon" by Emil Ludwig recently arrived at Toledo's main library, with a brief note that read: "I removed this book from your stacks in 1949 and did not check it out. I apologize. It's an excellent book and in good condition." The person who signed it "An ex-Toledoan" also wrote, "Carrying guilt for 60 years is a terrible thing." Library spokeswoman Rhonda Sewell says the package, with its Beverly Hills, Calif., postmark, came as a shock. She says the holiday season may have moved the sender to right a longtime wrong. Circulation clerk Harry Johnston speculates the book was taken by a high school student in a hurry.

Man gets year in jail for urinating on officer

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. (AP)—A Waldo man accused of urinating on a police officer during his fifth drunken-driving arrest has been sentenced to a year in jail. Court records released Wednesday show 36-year-old Daniel L. Shilts Jr. of Waldo was also fined about $3,600 and had his driver's license revoked for three years. The Sheboygan Press said according to the criminal complaint, Shilts was pulled over in November 2008 in Plymouth after an officer saw his vehicle hit a pole at a gas station. The complaint said Shilts failed field-sobriety tests. It said as he was taken to the police station he urinated in the back of the squad car, spraying the back of the officer's head. Defense attorney Chris Eippert said he thinks the sentence was appropriate to help Shilts deal with his acknowledged alcoholism.

Baby alligator, snakes found in university dorm

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP)—A baby alligator, a diamondback rattlesnake, six pythons and three chameleons have been found in a University of Arkansas dorm room. Campus police Lt. Gary Crain said Monday the reptiles—and four white mice that were apparently intended as lunch—were found in Maple Hill West. UA student Jacob Miller of Marion told police that he and roommate Michael Robbins of West Memphis were getting the reptiles free online and selling them for a profit. Crain says the two were not arrested but were fined by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission because it's illegal to possess alligators or rattlesnakes without certification as a handler. Crain says police went to the room after dorm's resident director received an anonymous phone call reporting marijuana and reptiles inside. He says no drugs were found.

Woman accused of drunken ride in Christmas parade

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A woman has posted $500 bond on a charge of public intoxication after police said she passed out on a horse she rode in the Shelbyville Christmas parade. According to the Shelbyville Times-Gazette, a 46-year-old woman was found slumped over on her horse outside a motel. Police said they had been notified of a possibly intoxicated rider in a red coat on a white horse in the parade Saturday night. Officers said they had to catch her twice to keep her from falling.

Fla. woman accused of hitting man with raw steak

DUNNELLON, Fla. (AP)—A 53-year-old was arrested after alledgedly hitting a man in the head with a raw steak. According to a Marion County Sheriff's Office report, the man told deputies Elsie Egan repeatedly hit him with the uncooked meat and slapped his face after he refused a piece of sliced bread. The man said he wanted a bread roll. Egan denied hitting the man with the steak but did admit to slapping him, saying she did it "so that he could learn." The man told deputies that Egan was his live-in girlfriend. He declined medical assistance.

Science & Technology

Facebook change provides users more privacy controls

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook is changing its privacy settings to give users more control over who sees the information they post on their personal pages.

Beginning Wednesday, the networking Web site is taking the rare step of requiring its more than 350 million users to review and update their privacy settings.

The new controls are designed to simplify the cumbersome privacy settings that have confounded many people—which is one reason why only 15 percent to 20 percent of Facebook users have specified their privacy settings. Facebook hopes people now will get comfortable with sharing even more information.

Privacy advocates still worry that users will expose too much about themselves, inadvertently or not. It remains to be seen whether the shift will mean fewer surprises for people who have unintentionally shared party photos with their bosses.

As part of the changes, Facebook users will be able to select a privacy setting for each piece of content, such as photos or updates, that they share on the site—as they share it. The choices are "friends" only, "friends of friends" or "everyone," which means not just Facebook users but everyone on the Internet. (The exception: Minors won't be able to share their content with everyone. For people under 18, the "everyone" setting will send information to "friends of friends.")

AP

In this July 16, 2009 file photo, a Facebook user edits privacy settings in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

There is also an option to customize groups of friends—such as "college buddies"—for certain kinds of updates.

Jules Polonetsky, co-chairman and director at the Future of Privacy Forum think tank in Washington, praised how this process resembles the way people decide what to share in their day-to-day lives. He said putting the controls "when you need it, right there, is far better than putting it in a `privacy' or `help' location" somewhere on the site.

Facebook is now asking users to review and alter their settings through a tool that explains the privacy changes. People will be able to keep their old settings or take recommendations from Facebook.

Some privacy advocates said the overhaul will actually reduce the amount of control Facebook users have over personal data. Their lists of friends and pages they are fans of will now be easily viewable by the public, for instance.

That is troubling because "even something as seemingly innocuous as your list of friends can reveal a great deal about you," Kevin Bankston, senior staff attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, wrote in a blog post. While it is still possible, he noted, to hide your list of friends from the public, the setting is hard to find—which goes against Facebook's aim of simplifying the privacy settings.

As promised, Facebook is also getting rid of its geographic networks, because many of them—take "New York" or "Australia"—have gotten too big. There had been 5.7 million people in the London network, for example.

If users were previously part of such a geographic network, this location will now be listed in their profiles under "current city."

Other networks, for schools and workplaces, are staying.

The changes have no effect on advertising on the site, said Elliot Schrage, vice president of global communications and public policy at Facebook.

But he added that by giving users such granular control over the content they share, Facebook is encouraging more sharing and a greater connection to the site.

"If users feel more confident with our service, they will use our service more," he said. "And the more they use our services the more benefits we derive."

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Q: Is there a difference in quality between HDMI and VGA when plugging a laptop into an HDTV?

A: A digital HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) cable will carry video and audio, unlike analog, video-only VGA (Video Graphics Array) cables. That alone argues for HDMI — if your computer has that output or, with the right adapter, a DVI (Digital Visual Interface) or Mini DisplayPort connector.

But things aren't always simple when pairing computers and consumer electronics. You might think that digital is always better than analog, but VGA and HDMI connections from two laptops yielded about the same visual quality on a 40-inch LCD. And you can have issues getting the computer's desktop to fill the TV's screen in either setup.

If you want to watch a movie downloaded from a service such as Apple's iTunes that's been locked with "digital rights management" usage controls, you may have to use HDMI — but you can still hit unexpected snags getting a computer to accept a display. HDMI can be finicky even without DRM hassles: An older Sony HDTV yielded an "Invalid format" error with each of three laptop HDMI connections.

So try to get HDMI to work, but don't feel too bad if you have to fall back to VGA.

■■■

Q: My Mac's menu bar clock is stuck at 9:59 a.m.

A: This can happen when a background application in Mac OS X called SystemUIServer gets stuck. To free it up, go to the Utilities subfolder of the Applications folder, launch Activity Monitor, and type "systemui" in its search box. You should see only one result, "SystemUIServer"; select that and click the "Quit Process" button above it. The menu bar's clock and the other system-notification icons should vanish, then reappear with the current time.

Life & Style

Palestinian files $110M libel suit over 'Bruno'

A Palestinian shopkeeper and father portrayed as a terrorist in the movie "Bruno" is suing film star Sacha Baron Cohen, David Letterman and others for libel and slander.

The lawsuit filed last week by Ayman Abu Aita in District of Columbia federal court seeks $110 million in damages.

In the movie, Cohen plays a gay Austrian fashion journalist trying to make it big in the United States. To achieve worldwide fame, Bruno travels to the Middle East to make peace. He interviews Abu Aita, and a caption labels the Bethlehem shopkeeper as a member of the militant Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade.

Abu Aita is suing CBS and Letterman's company Worldwide Pants over an interview before the film's release where the Late Show host and Cohen discussed Bruno's encounter with a "terrorist."

In the interview, Cohen, 37, said he set up the meeting in the West Bank with the help of a CIA agent. Cohen said he feared for his safety and interviewed the "terrorist" at a secret location chosen by Abu Aita. A clip was then played on "The Late Show with David Letterman."

According to the lawsuit, however, the interview with Abu Aita took place at a hotel chosen by Cohen and located in a part of the West Bank that was under Israeli military control.

Film distributor NBC Universal and director Larry Charles are also named in the lawsuit.

A spokeswoman for Universal Studios declined to comment. Tom Keaney, a spokesman for David Letterman, also said he would not comment.

Cohen, a British comedian, also faced multiple lawsuits after his earlier movie, "Borat," including one for $30 million filed by residents of a remote Romanian village who said they were misled into thinking the project was a documentary about poverty. Most of the lawsuits were thrown out.

Abu Aita is prominent businessman, a Christian and a "peace-loving person who abhors violence," the latest lawsuit states. Before the film, he "enjoyed a good reputation for honesty and a peaceable nature" in his community, Abu Aita's lawyers wrote.

They go on to write that any accusations or insinuations that Abu Aita is or ever was associated with the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, or any other terrorist activity is "utterly false and untrue."

Attorney Joseph Peter Drennan said Abu Aita was never offered a release to sign to appear in the film.

"This is an important lawsuit because it is about the dignity of a specific person. It is about his reputation, about his standing in the community," Drennan said.

"It addresses a very corrosive and calumnious slur against any young Palestinian who would be a political activist on the West Bank" who would be called a "terrorist" because of his activism.

Hatem Abu Ahmad, Abu Aita's Arab-Israeli lawyer, said Cohen made millions "on the back of my client."

The film drew disdain from the Israelis and Palestinians portrayed in a place Bruno calls "Middle Earth."

Abu Ahmad has said the gay associations in the movie could cause danger for Abu Aita.

"This joke is very dangerous. We are not in the United States, we are not in Europe," he said. "We are in the Middle East and the world operates differently here."

An Alabama pastor who tries to talk Bruno out of being gay in the movie has said he was duped into appearing in the film through phone calls and fake Internet sites set up by Cohen's cohorts. Pastor Jody Trautwein believed he was helping a German TV crew.

Drennan said he expects a hearing on the Abu Aita's complaint in late January. ***(AP)***

A masterful class from Yo-Yo Ma

By YVONNE VILLARREAL
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

SANTA BARBARA, Calif.—He's a cello master. A classical impresario. A 15-time Grammy winner. But on Tuesday morning, he was simply the nutty music professor.

Yo-Yo Ma led three University of California, Santa Barbara, students in a master class at the Lobero Theatre in downtown Santa Barbara. The free event, co-presented by UCSB Arts & Lectures and the UCSB department of music, featured works by Bach and Beethoven.

"It was surreal," said cellist Kathryn Mendenhall, who performed Beethoven's Sonata No. 4 in C, Opus 102, No. 1, with pianist Christopher Davis. "I thought, 'Oh, that's Yo-Yo Ma I'm playing for.' And, 'Oh, he's actually talking to me?' His albums were the first ones my parents bought me as a kid. So yeah ... it was just surreal."

The classical heavyweight, whose discography includes more than 75 albums, shared useful tidbits with the musicians: "You need to be an equal

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Yo-Yo Ma encourages violist Jacob Adams during a session at the Lobero Theatre in Santa Barbara, Calif. "He has a remarkable ability to put you at ease," says the student, ". . . and he definitely knows what he's talking about."

and not think of (Beethoven) as a genius ... you want to go one-on-one with his imagination." He suggested techniques—count the beats out loud—to help improve their performance.

At times, when the musicians played, Ma would talk to them—"be more fluid" or "not so staccato"—staying close, tapping his foot and swaying his hands with the music.

"He really reminded me that it's important to convey an idea rather than play all the notes perfectly," said Davis, 27.

But this was no stiff music lesson. A jovial Ma had the nearly 600 onlookers chuckling with his humorous teaching style. At one point, he asked one of the musicians to "look at him longingly" when he played.

Ma's comedic bits seemed to be a welcome teaching device for the nervous students.

"He has a remarkable ability to put you at ease," said violist Jacob Adams, 28, who performed Bach's Suite No. 3 in C—a piece originally played by the cello. "I was very nervous. I mean, he's an institution. But he makes you comfortable and gives you the space to express yourself. It's very easy to let the nerves take over when you're standing next to a big-name person like him, but he's so down-to-earth. And he definitely knows what he's talking about."

Indeed. Ma, a member of the American Classical Music Hall of Fame, began playing cello when he was 4. He studied at the Juilliard School of Music with Leonard Rose and later graduated from Harvard. He also plays the piano, viola and violin.

AP

Buffalo Bills wide receiver Terrell Owens warms up before an NFL football game against the New York Jets in Toronto, on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009.

T.O. to test fashion by signing with modeling firm

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—The catwalk might never be the same now that Terrell Owens has signed a deal with a modeling agency.

Having already launched a reality TV show and promoted his own breakfast cereal, the Buffalo Bills receiver is ready to try fashion after signing a deal with Wilhelmina Models this week.

"Well, I'm always putting my hands in and feeding into something," Owens said after practice Wednesday, noting Wilhelmina approached him with the offer. "When you've got some good looks like myself, you've got to take full advantage of it."

In a release issued by Wilhelmina, the firm described the partnership as a natural one given Owens' popularity.

"Owens has achieved what most athletes can only dream of: record books highlighting his name, fans sporting his jersey and a nickname of just two letters that is recognized by sports enthusiasts nationwide," said Wilhelmina, which was founded in 1967 by supermodel Wilhelmina Cooper, and currently represents more than 1,000 models.

The firm, which has offices in New York, Los Angeles and Miami, signed Owens to its sports division, which also promotes boxer Roy Jones Jr., NBA star Andrei Kirilenko and U.S. speedskater Allison Baver. Wilhelmina will represent Owens in seeking endorsements and sponsorship deals in personal care and fashion industries.

It's Owens latest foray outside of football. Earlier this year, he co-produced a reality TV show that was broadcast on VH-1, and has already been picked up for a second season. This summer he promoted a breakfast cereal, called 'T.O.'s Honey Toasted Oats,' which was produced by Pittsburgh-based PLB Sports, and sold in western New York.

Owens also markets his own brand of T-shirts.

All of this doesn't mean Owens, who turned 36 on Monday, is ready to retire after 14 NFL seasons.

After signing a one-year $6.5 million contract with Buffalo in March, days after being released by Dallas, Owens said he intends to continue playing for at least two more years.

"I feel great, I'm out here running around and having fun," he said. "If I can go to a team where it works for me, then I feel like I can succeed and be productive."

And he won't discount returning to Buffalo. After a terrible start to the season, Owens' production has picked up. Of his 43 catches for 690 yards and three touchdowns receiving this season, T.O. has 20 catches for 407 yards and two scores in his past four games.

BEST SELLERS

(c) 2009 Los Angeles Times

Nonfiction

1. ***Open***, by Andre Agassi (Knopf: $28.95) The tennis star's memoir and personal odyssey of a lost childhood, drug use and comebacks.
2. ***What the Dog Saw***, by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown: $27.99) A collection of writings on everyday and extraordinary people.
3. ***Going Rogue***, by Sarah Palin (HarperCollins: $28.99) A memoir of the vice presidential candidate and former Alaska governor.
4. ***Lit***, by Mary Karr (Harper: $25.99) The author's descent into alcoholism and recovery.
5. ***SuperFreakonomics***, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner (William Morrow: $29.99) More funny, informative facts and questions to ponder.
6. ***Eating Animals***, by Jonathan Safran Foer (Little, Brown: $25.99) An examination and behind-the-scenes look at factory farming.
7. ***Have a Little Faith***, by Mitch Albom (Hyperion: $23.99) Albom's observations of a rabbi and a pastor on an eight-year journey of faith.
8. ***Cornflakes With John Lennon***, by Robert Hilburn (Rodale: $24.99) The Los Angeles Times' former music critic's behind-the-scenes look at legendary rock stars.
9. ***The Book of Basketball***, by Bill Simmons (ESPN: $30) An encyclopedia of all you need to know about the NBA.
10. ***When Everything Changed***, by Gail Collins (Little, Brown: $27.99) A history of the women's movement since 1960.

Fiction

1. ***The Help***, by Kathryn Stockett (Putnam: $24.95) A maid, a cook and a college grad change a Mississippi town.
2. ***Under the Dome***, by Stephen King (Scribner: $35) A ragtag cast of characters fight to survive in their small Maine town inexplicably surrounded by an invisible force field.
3. ***The Lost Symbol***, by Dan Brown (Doubleday: $25.99) Robert Langdon uses symbology skills to find a missing Freemason in Washington, D.C.
4. ***The Lacuna***, by Barbara Kingsolver (Harper: $26.99) A writer's escapades encompassing 1930s Mexican artist communities and Cold War America.
5. ***Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days***, by Jeff Kinney (Amulet: $13.95) Greg desires to spend summer vacation indoors despite his mother's wishes for outdoor family fun.
6. ***Too Much Happiness***, by Alice Munro (Knopf : $25.95) The short story master explores the lives of women and their relationships in 10 new stories.
7. ***Wolf Hall***, by Hilary Mantel (Henry Holt: $27) The rise of Henry VIII's adviser Thomas Cromwell.
8. ***I, Alex Cross***, by James Patterson (Little, Brown: $27.99) Detective Alex Cross infiltrates a secret society while tracking down the killer of a close relative.
9. ***Eclipse***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $19.99) Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, between life and death.
10. ***Last Night in Twisted River***, by John Irving (Random House: $28) A father and son are on the run in 1950s Northeast logging towns.

NC elections board ends exam of 'Idol' runner-up

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Elections officials dropped an investigation into 2003 "American Idol" runnerup Clay Aiken's voter registration on Wednesday, weeks after the singer ruffled feathers by slamming some local school board candidates on his blog.

The Wake County Board of Elections agreed there was enough evidence to indicate Aiken likely voted unlawfully there while living in a neighboring county. But the board declined to seek a more thorough review with the State Board of Elections, which had the small potential to lead to a criminal prosecution.

There was no evidence presented that Aiken deliberately sought to violate election law, and Aiken wrote a letter asking officials to remove him from their voting rolls.

"In this case, I think this should be over and done with today," board chairman Sharon Everett said before the 3-0 vote.

Aiken's registration got attention after he criticized Wake County school board candidates last month in a blog posting, calling them "selfish idiots" intent on damaging a school system.

Four candidates backed by the local GOP ran and won on a platform of changing the Wake County schools policy that uses student reassignments and busing to achieve economic and racial diversity. The program is considered a national model.

Nicolas Cage's ex-girlfriend sues for millions

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nicolas Cage's ex-girlfriend is suing the actor and his former business manager, claiming she is owed more than $13 million and a house the actor promised her.

Christina Fulton, who is the mother of Cage's adult son, Weston, sued the Oscar-winner in Los Angeles on Tuesday. She claims Cage promised her a home in Los Angeles' Hancock Park neighborhood, but that she has now been ordered to leave the property.

Fulton is seeking the title and rights to the house as well as money for a series of debts she claims were caused by Cage's former business manager, Samuel J. Levin.

Cage's attorney, Marty Singer, called Fulton's claims against the actor absurd and said Cage has given her far more than the $6,000 per month he was required to pay her under a court order. Cage has paid $3 million per year on behalf of Fulton in recent years, he said.

"From Nic's standpoint, this is really a case of 'No good deed goes unpunished,'" Singer said.

He noted that many of the claims are leveled against Levin, whose attorney, Joseph Schleimer, did not respond to a phone message seeking comment on Wednesday.

Fulton's lawsuit is the latest in a string of financial woes for Cage, who stated in a $20 million lawsuit against Levin that he is being forced to sell properties around the world to make up for financial mismanagement. The Internal Revenue Service has filed more than $6.6 million in tax liens against the actor this year, records show.

Levin has countersued Cage, claiming the star owes

AP

In this Aug. 3, 2006 file photo, actor Nicolas Cage arrives at the world premiere of the film "World Trade Center", in New York.

him money and failed to heed his advice to curb his lavish spending habits.

Fulton and Cage's son was born in 1990, and the couple split about four years later, her lawsuit states.

Cage bought her a home in 2001 and told her she would own the title to the property, according to the lawsuit. It wasn't until earlier this year—when the actor told her in an e-mail that she should sell the home if she was having financial problems—that Fulton states she discovered her name wasn't on the title.

Foreclosure proceedings have begun on the home.

Fulton accuses Levin of failing to properly review credit statements and spot fraudulent charges. She also accused the accountant of exposing her to other debts, including a $1 million in government liens.

Public records show Levin has been a licensed certified public accountant in California for nearly 25 years and has no public record of disciplinary actions.

DA: Ind. man sent lewd messages to Ashanti's mom

NEW YORK (AP)—An Indiana fitness trainer deluged Ashanti's mother with crude text messages about the R&B star, peppering his comments with graphic photos and a picture of her family home, authorities said in a court case that could go to trial next week.

Devar Hurd, 31, sent the Grammy-winning singer's mother and her husband dozens of messages to their cell phones before his July arrest, a detective said in papers filed in state court in Manhattan.

The messages gushed lewdly about Ashanti's performances and jealously lamented her relationship with the rapper Nelly, the court papers said. They said one message included a photo of her mother's home and asked about coming over to visit; another mentioned seeing her car when he went to a performance of "The Wiz." Ashanti starred in an off-Broadway revival of the musical this summer.

AP

In this May 19, 2009, file photo, singer Ashanti Douglas, left, poses with her mother Tina Douglas at a press preview for the "The Wiz" at the New York City Center in New York.

Hurd, 31, has pleaded not guilty and is being held on $50,000 bond. His lawyer, Richard Verchick, declined to comment Wednesday. Relatives said they were mystified by the charges against Hurd, a gym worker and former janitor from Griffith, Ind.

Ashanti spokeswoman Judy Katz said the singer and her family feel authorities have taken care of the issue and decline to comment further.

Hurd's text messages interspersed explicit sexual scenarios—sometimes accompanied by photos of male genitals—with career advice, accounts of his workouts and dreamy romantic visions, according to the court papers.

"I had a nice dream about us shani," he wrote in June, according to the papers. "We was at your place and had a event and u was singing. I was feeling so good because we was finally past this and living together."

A July message said his mental state "is very fragile with all this," the court papers said.

While most of the messages were apparently directed at Ashanti, a few seemed to address her mother, Tina Douglas, and sister, Kenashia.

Tina Douglas told Hurd to stop contacting her in February after he called repeatedly, according to the court papers. It's unclear how he might have gotten her cell phone number.

"As far as I know, he doesn't know these people," sister-in-law Kim Hurd said by phone Wednesday. "He's not in the music business. He's really a regular old person."

It's unclear whether Ashanti, 29, would be called to testify if the case goes to trial.

Raised in Glen Cove, N.Y., the multiplatinum-selling singer got her first record deal at 14; her hits include "Foolish" and "Only U." She has appeared in films including "Coach Carter" and "John Tucker Must Die."

Movie producer Tyler Perry's mother dies at age 64

ATLANTA (AP)—Willie Maxine Perry, who helped inspire the character Madea played by her movie producer son Tyler Perry, has died. She was 64.

Tyler Perry announced her Tuesday death on his Web site, where he thanked fans for their prayers. He did not say where his mother died or anything about the cause.

Perry's publicist, Keleigh Thomas, would not give further details Wednesday afternoon.

Perry owes much of his popularity to his portrayal of Madea, a sharp-tongued, iron-willed Southern matriarch played by Perry in a padded suit and wig. She is the central character in films like "Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail,"

In an October interview, Perry told CBS' "60 Minutes" that the character is a celebration of strong black women who is based in part on his own mother.

"Madea's a cross between my mother and my aunt—she's the type of grandmother that was on every corner when I was growing up," he said. "... She's a strong figure where I come from, in my part of the African American community."

But the character has also earned criticism from some black community figures who argue Perry is reinforcing stereotypes of black women as overbearing, violent and brash. Film maker Spike Lee recently labeled Perry's TBS sitcoms and films "coonery."

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The Princess and the Frog
Friday 4:30 7:20 9:35
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:35
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:20
Anika Noni Rose, John Goodman
Comedy, Family • Rated G

Synopsis
After being summoned back to the Mouse House by Pixar founder John Lasseter in 2006, Alladin and Treasure Planet directors Ron Clements and John Musker join forces once again for this traditionally animated 2-D fantasy for the entire family, set in New Orleans. Former Dreamgirl Anika Noni Rose will voice the lead character Tiana, Disney's first African-American heroine in their long heritage of fairy tale animated features. Also in the voice cast is Keith David, lending his baritone chords to the film's villain, Dr. Facilier.

Ang Tanging Pamilya
Friday 4:10 7:30 9:50
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:50
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
AiAi Delas Alas, Joseph Estrada
Action • Rated NR

Synopsis
A young woman is happily surprised to find her long distance boyfriend in the country, with the intention of proposing to her. She accepts, and is looking forward to a happy life together. But the parents on both sides don't want to make it easy, putting all the wedding plans at risk as they wage war with each other.

Ninja Assassin
Friday 7:10 9:40
Saturday 7:10 9:40
Sunday 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 7:10
Rain, Rick Yune
Action • Rated R

Old Dogs
Friday 4:25 7:15 9:30
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:15 9:30
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:15
John Travolta, Robin Williams
Comedy, Family • Rated PG

Twilight Saga: New Moon
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
Thriller, Romance • Rated PG 13

2012
Friday 4:05 7:05 10:10
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 10:10
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
John Cusack, Amanda Peet
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Planet 51
Friday 4:20
Saturday 1:30 4:20
Sunday 1:30 4:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20
Gary Oldman, Jessica Biel
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG 13

The Blind Side
Friday 4:15 7:25 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:25 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:25
Sandra Bullock, Tim McGraw
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13

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Fiance's kids rule the roost during their weekend visits

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I have been living with my fiance, "Trevor," for three years. When his children—ages 7 and 8—are here for their visits, he treats me like a third wheel. Trevor shows me absolutely no affection, nor will he have as much as a two-sentence conversation with me.

His children dictate what we will be having for dinner and what we'll do for the weekend they are here. They hang on him as if they are growths on his skin. I can't even get a hug from him. We don't have five minutes alone. Trevor allows them to stay up as late as they want, and once they go to bed, he goes, too. Most times he doesn't even say good night.

Many times he has left me and my 5-year-old son sleeping and has taken his kids for breakfast without even giving me the courtesy of asking if we'd like to join them. Abby, as soon as his children return to their mother, he becomes himself again—attentive, loving and always including me in what he's doing.

I have told Trevor many times how I feel about this. I understand he loves his children and wants to spend as much time as possible with them when they're here. But must I be put on hold while they visit? I'm ready to pick up and leave.

LOW PRIORITY IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR LOW PRIORITY: Feeling as you do, that might be best for all concerned. For whatever reason, you perceive your fiance's visitations with his children as competition. From my perspective, however, Trevor loves his children, may carry some guilt that the family is no longer intact, and tries the best he can to concentrate all his energy on them during the short periods they are with him. This is not about you and him; it is about THEM.

Forgive me for not being more sympathetic, but please recognize that your present is a glimpse of what your future will be if you marry Trevor. Once you accept that, you'll have a better idea of what you want to do.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 56-year-old woman. When I was growing up, I missed out on a lot in school because of a hearing problem. I was able to graduate from high school—but just barely. I can read and write, but there are things I should know how to do but can't.

I am very embarrassed that I'm not able to do things most people take for granted—for example, make change. I could never work as a cashier because I know I'd be fired on the spot. I have owned a housecleaning business for 17 years, which has worked out OK, but I'd like to have a job where I'm around people.

How can I learn about money without embarrassing myself or my family?

CHALLENGED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR CHALLENGED: Because you want to supplement your math skills, start checking opportunities that are available in your area for adult education. Some high schools and community colleges offer night classes for adults.

Also, some important advances in cash register design have occurred since your school days. Cash registers now indicate for the cashier exactly how much change should be returned to the customers. So if the idea of a job in retail interests you, start looking around.

TO MY JEWISH READERS: Hanukkah begins at sundown. To all of you I wish a happy festival of lights!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Bundchen, Brady have baby boy

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and supermodel Gisele Bundchen have welcomed a baby boy.

Brady announced the birth Wednesday. He said the boy was born Tuesday and that he and Bundchen had not chosen a name. He called it "a wonderful experience in my life."

"Everyone's great," Brady said. "I didn't get much sleep."

Brady also has a 2-year-old son, Jack, with actress Bridget Moynahan. Bundchen is a mother for the first time. The birth was first reported by People.com.

Brady and Bundchen were married in February in Los Angeles in a small ceremony. In April, they held another wedding ceremony in Costa Rica for friends and family.

On Wednesday, Brady showed up 16 minutes late for his weekly media availability. Asked what was new, he said, "a normal week," and smiled.

This is a May 4, 2009, file photo showing New England Patriots' Tom Brady and his wife, model Gisele Bundchen arriving at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute Gala in New York. AP

The Patriots have lost three of their last four games to drop to 7-5. They lead the AFC East by one game and play at home Sunday against the Carolina Panthers. Brady said it was important for him to come to work Wednesday.

"I owe it to the guys in the locker room to really focus on what I need to do for this team," he said, "and put all these emotions aside and kind of come in here with a great sense of determination on what we have to do as a team. So, as a captain and a leader of this team, the last thing they need from me is to be really not focused on the job at hand. There's plenty of things for me to really be doing here this week."

'New Moon' director defends woman in film's taping

CHICAGO (AP)—The director of "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" is coming to the defense of a Chicago woman facing prison time for videotaping part of the film.

Director Chris Weitz told the Chicago Sun-Times that he was dismayed to hear about Samantha Tumpach's Nov. 28 arrest at a Rosemont movie theater. She faces a felony charge of illegally copying Weitz's new film and could get three years in prison if convicted.

Tumpach was found with about three minutes of "New Moon" on her digital camera. She says she was taping her sister's birthday party at the theater and wasn't trying to record the movie.

In his e-mail to the Sun-Times, Weitz says there's a difference between trying to protect the film's copyright and prosecuting someone who "clearly seems not to have any intentions towards video piracy."

Weitz says he's contacted the film's studio about his concerns.

French rocker Hallyday hospitalized in LA

PARIS (AP)—France's biggest rock star, Johnny Hallyday, has been hospitalized in Los Angeles, but his press service said Wednesday that the infection he was suffering from following back surgery has been "contained."

Hallyday's producer, Jean-Claude Camus, "has been given reassuring news," said a statement from the 96 B press service. Hallyday "is reacting satisfactorily to antibiotics. The infection has been contained."

The 66-year-old Hallyday, an entertainment icon for decades, underwent surgery in Paris on Nov. 26 for a herniated disc. Four days later, he traveled to Los Angeles with his wife Laeticia.

Hallyday is in the midst of a multi-city tour—billed as his last—called "Route 66," a reference to his age and homage to the American rock that has inspired his music.

Hallyday has had a series of health problems this year, and had a cancerous polyp removed from his colon.

The singer, known for his glittery outfits and Elvis-style tight pants, is an idol in France with fans that span generations and include President Nicolas Sarkozy, a friend.

Hallyday

Producer Camus said on French radio that Hallyday's hospitalization could thwart his plans to spend the holidays at his chalet in Gstaad, Switzerland. His "Route 66" tour began in May and is scheduled to continue with an appearance Jan. 8 in the northern city of Amiens. The tour ends in Paris in February.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Hollywood breaks revenue record of $9.68 billion

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood has set a new box-office record as the year's domestic ticket sales head beyond $10 billion for the first time. Revenues for the year have inched ahead of the previous record of $9.68 billion set in 2007, according to Hollywood.com box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian. With three weeks left in the year and huge films still to come, Dergarabedian projects that domestic revenues will climb to $10.6 billion for 2009. Among the potential blockbusters arriving by Christmas are Robert Downey Jr.'s "Sherlock Holmes," James Cameron's "Avatar" and an "Alvin and the Chipmunks" sequel.

Obamas, Winfrey talk gifts on Christmas special

CHICAGO (AP)—President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama talked holiday gifts when Oprah Winfrey went to the White House to film a Christmas special. In quotes released Wednesday by Harpo Productions, President Obama tells Winfrey that as a rule he gives "nicer stuff than I get." Michelle Obama responds, "No way, I gave you good gifts last year." Winfrey's special is to include a tour of White House holiday decorations and an appearance by Bo, the family's dog. Winfrey also says she asked the president to give himself a grade on the job he has done. Winfrey hasn't revealed the grade Obama gave, but says it "might surprise you." "Christmas at the White House" airs on ABC on Dec. 13 at 10 p.m. EST.

R. Kelly working on autobiography due in 2011

NEW YORK (AP)—R. Kelly is writing more chapters, only this time, it's not for his "Trapped" saga, but for a new memoir. The 42-year-old singer, writer and producer says in a statement issued Wednesday that he is working on an autobiography with David Ritz that will "tell it like it is." He has a lot to talk about. He's one of the best-selling recording artists in history but also one of the most controversial. The book promises to go through all his drama, including child pornography charges that ended with an acquittal. The autobiography is untitled right now, just like his new CD. It's scheduled for release by Tavis Smiley's SmileyBooks in 2011.

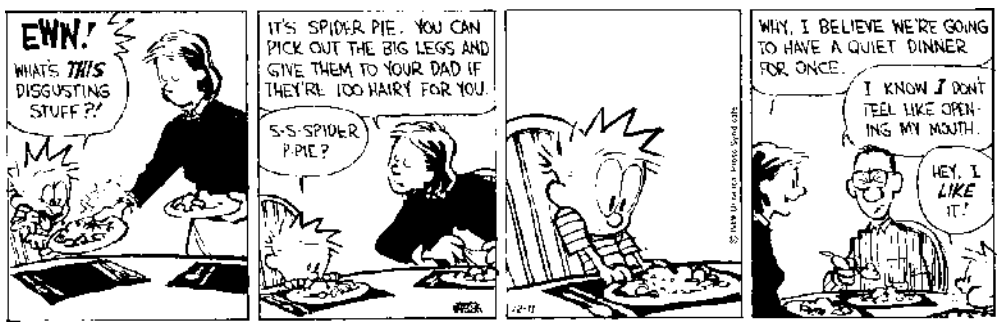
'Biggest Loser' sheds history-making 239 pounds

NEW YORK (AP)—The latest winner of NBC's "The Biggest Loser" is the biggest loser in the show's history. Danny Cahill, a 40-year-old land surveyor and musician from Broken Arrow, Okla., lost 239 pounds to win the $250,000 grand prize. Cahill went from 430 pounds to 191 pounds, losing 55.58 percent of his body weight in six months and three weeks—and breaking the record for the most weight lost by any contestant. The Nielsen Co. said that with 13.4 million viewers, the season eight finale of "The Biggest Loser" on Tuesday night had the show's biggest audience in four years. Erik Chopin, who won in 2006, held the previous record, dropping 214 pounds. He went from 407 pounds to 193 pounds. In an interview Wednesday on the "Today" show, Cahill said his family motivated him to change his lifestyle. NBC said season nine will premiere Jan. 5.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


EWW!
WHAT'S THIS DISGUSTING STUFF?!
IT'S SPIDER PIE. YOU CAN PICK OUT THE BIG LEGS AND GIVE THEM TO YOUR DAD IF THEY'RE TOO HAIRY FOR YOU.
S-S-SPIDER P-PIE?
WHY, I BELIEVE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A QUIET DINNER FOR ONCE.
I KNOW I DON'T FEEL LIKE OPENING MY MOUTH.
HEY, I LIKE IT!

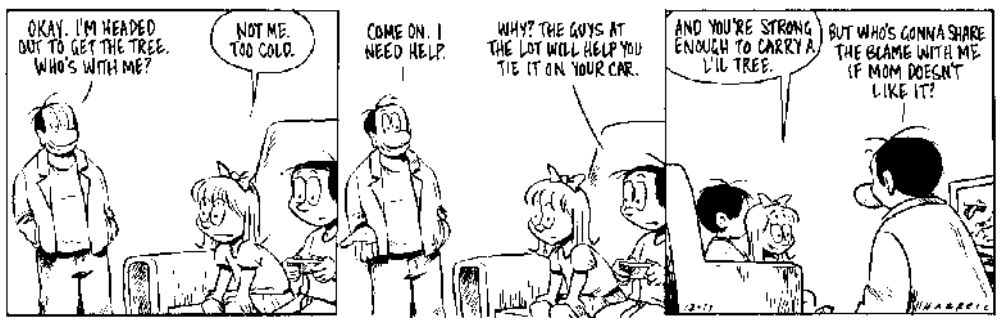
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU'RE HARD TO SHOP FOR, LIZ. I STILL HAVEN'T BOUGHT YOUR GIFT
REALLY? I GOT YOURS TWO MONTHS AGO
NNNNNNGH!
OH, CHEER UP. HAVE SOME LOSER NOG

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. I'M HEADED OUT TO GET THE TREE. WHO'S WITH ME?
NOT ME. TOO COLD.
COME ON. I NEED HELP.
WHY? THE GUYS AT THE LOT WILL HELP YOU TIE IT ON YOUR CAR.
AND YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY A L'IL TREE.
BUT WHO'S GONNA SHARE THE BLAME WITH ME IF MOM DOESN'T LIKE IT?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I WANT A PAIR OF THOSE SHOES WITH LITTLE WHEELS ON THE BOTTOM, WITH PURPLE RACING STRIPES ON THE SIDE.
GEE. I DON'T KNOW... THOSE ARE REALLY HARD TO FIND THESE DAYS. I CAN'T MAKE ANY PROMISES.
PST!
WHAT SIZE?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

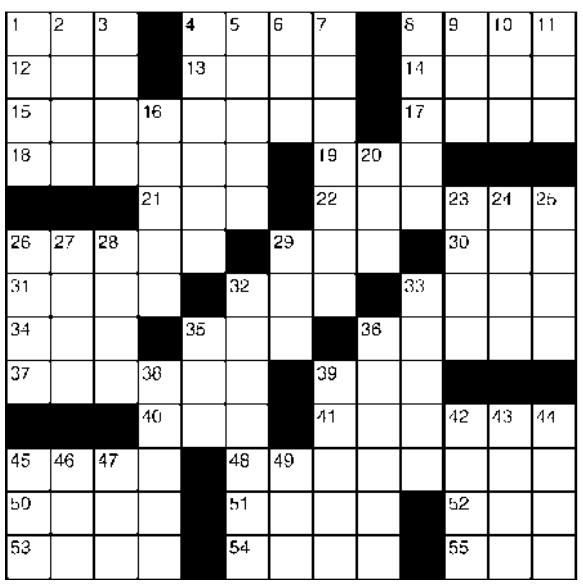
ACROSS
1 Recipe meas.
4 Circulate
8 Wield an axe
12 Blackbird
13 Staffer
14 Posterior
15 Chicken-ing-out feeling
17 Aware of
18 Rectan-gu ar
19 Spread seeds
21 Chart format
22 Excessively
26 Old anesthetic
29 Conk out
30 Born
31 Curds' mate
32 Parcel of land
33 Pack cargo
34 Historic time
35 Jewel
36 Saturn has many
37 Legislation
39 Old French coin
40 Coffee vessel
41 Capital of Oman
45 Creche trio
48 Ready to rumble
50 Not "fer"
51 Parliamentarian, perhaps
52 Lawyers' org.
53 Safecracker
54 Albanian coins
55 Bygone space station

DOWN
1 Mexican entree
2 Uppity one
3 Dosage, maybe
4 Dragon of Norse myth
5 Loyal subject
6 Rhyming tribute
7 Diver's garb
8 Mob
9 Coco denizen
10 Feedbag morsel
11 In favor of
16 Sleepy companion?
20 Inseparable
23 "Do — others ..."
24 Trotsky or Russell
25 Evergreens
26 Basin accessory
27 From one end to t'other
28 Get better
29 Comic DeLuise
32 Humorous hoax
33 March King
35 Wildebeest
36 Almond Joys minus almonds
38 Cake enhancement
39 Smug smile
42 Study all night
43 Both (Pref.)
44 Autocrat
45 Spring part
46 Time of your life?
47 Showbiz job
49 "Ulalume" writer

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	A	F	T	■	L	A	M	P	■	L	O	G
E	U	R	O	■	O	B	O	E	■	E	D	C
B	R	O	W	N	B	E	A	R	■	F	O	C
R	A	G	N	■	O	■	■	I	N	T	R	O
■	■	■	I	T	■	A	D	L	I	B	■	■
E	L	B	E	■	F	L	Y	■	L	A	I	D
B	F	F	■	■	L	I	F	■	■	N	O	N
B	I	A	S	■	O	A	R	■	S	K	U	A
■	■	R	A	M	P	S	■	B	E	■	■	■
S	A	I	L	Y	■	■	S	I	N	G	F	S
H	U	E	■	B	A	N	K	V	A	U	L	I
E	L	F	■	A	R	E	A	■	T	A	L	E
D	D	T	■	D	E	B	T	■	E	R	S	T

Yesterday's answer 12-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rider Strong, 30; Jermaine Jackson, 55; Teri Garr, 60; John Kerry, 66

Happy Birthday: A lot will be riding on how hard you work and what you are willing to offer. Now is the time to face challenges with confidence and a give-it-your-all attitude. Forward motion will bring greater success and a better financial future. Test the waters and show your talents. Your numbers are 5, 11, 19, 21, 34, 36, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Forget about trying to get things done and take the day to relax, travel about or pick up gifts or supplies for the social events you will be attending later this month. A physical change will boost your confidence. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't jump to conclusions or you may get blamed for spreading rumors. Concentrate on finding solutions for someone you see struggling with too many burdens and responsibilities. A new friendship will turn out to be priceless. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Getting together to celebrate the festive season with some of your peers will help you get an understanding of how you can make your relationships work better. A creative look at some of the plans being implemented at work will give you greater control. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Look for any out that enables you to take off and enjoy the day. Don't let demands lead to overspending. You will come up with alternative ways to please the ones you love without going over budget if you shop wisely. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will face problems at work if you let someone with a negative attitude put a nix on a project you want to pursue. Home improvement projects or a space that can be used for entertainment will enhance your life and please the people you live with. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Getting together with friends or collaborating with someone with similar interests will help you reach a destination you've been working toward. Take a practical approach to the expenses that can be incurred at this time of the year. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't push or pressure someone you care about or you will face resistance. Listen to the complaints being made and you will find a way to take care of the problems that exist. You can do things on a shoestring if you shop for bargains. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Get the go-ahead from neighbors before you make outside changes. A diplomatic discussion with someone with experience will help you make whatever adjustments are necessary. Reducing your overhead will help eliminate stress. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You might want to do a little research regarding the location you are currently living in and a destination that interests you both professionally and personally. Don't let someone's change of plans disrupt yours. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Make the first move to reunite with someone you have been missing. Taking the opportunity to make a change will surprise someone who cares for you. A private deal will be profitable if you move quickly. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Something good is heading your way. Extra cash or a token of appreciation will help you resolve a problem regarding your current financial status. A budget will be necessary if you want to make the most of what you receive. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Work with others will be a learning experience you won't want to miss. Your talents will be used wisely and will enable you to show what you have to offer. Don't let a romantic encounter cause you to lose sight of your professional goals. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are bright and engaging and have a unique approach to life. You are dedicated, practical, free-spirited and adventuresome.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			2					
	7		4				8	
5		2				9		3
			7		8		6	
1								9
	5		3		6			
6		7				5		4
	4				5		2	
			8					

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	8	7	6	9	3	5	4	1
9	5	6	1	4	7	3	2	8
4	1	3	8	2	5	6	9	7
8	6	1	9	3	2	4	7	5
7	3	9	4	5	1	2	8	6
5	4	2	7	6	8	1	3	9
1	2	4	5	8	9	7	6	3
6	7	8	3	1	4	9	5	2
3	9	5	2	7	6	8	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE PARETO PRINCIPLE — Solution: 8 letters

E	C	N	E	D	E	C	E	R	P	D	E	R	E	S
G	P	A	T	T	E	R	N	P	L	C	E	V	C	E
A	O	S	T	A	Γ	F	O	Γ	N	V	Γ	H	N	Γ
T	P	L	A	W	S	W	I	A	E	N	A	G	A	Y
N	U	P	B	B	E	Y	T	N	T	R	I	E	L	O
E	L	Y	L	R	C	R	U	P	T	N	Z	E	A	L
C	A	T	E	I	O	E	B	S	E	I	L	T	B	P
R	T	H	S	P	C	U	I	F	M	P	I	S	M	M
E	I	G	M	X	S	A	R	I	M	M	P	S	I	E
P	O	I	I	I	R	I	T	A	E	R	(E)	E	N	R
W	N	E	N	F	N	P	S	I	E	C	(L)	L	O	U
E	O	E	I	G	O	H	I	A	O	I	(A)	U	R	S
K	S	R	G	O	I	P	D	R	I	N	(S)	R	I	A
S	T	U	K	Γ	E	W	O	Y	R	O	E	H	T	E
Y	B	H	T	L	A	E	W	T	W	E	N	T	Y	M

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ABC, Application, Bug, Business, Charts, Distribution, Eighty, Employees, Engineering, Event, Few, Fix, Gini, Imbalance, Importance, Laws, Measure, Minority, Optimize, Pattern, Percentage, Population, Power, Precedence, Revenue, Rules, Sale, Sample, Shift, Skew, Spread, Staff, Tables, Theory, Time, Top, Trace, Twenty, Wealth, Work, Yield

Yesterday's Answer: Double talk

NEW FROM WONDERWORD! The Wonderword 2010 Desk Calendar is now available for purchase on Amazon.com and Calendars.com! Search "Wonderword Calendar" & order yours today!

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Leaving Island
Garage Sale
Saturday, Dec. 12
Joeten Finasisu Housing #22
next to NMC
Household items, window shades, couch, children toys & clothes, men & women clothes, kitchen table (seats 6) aircon, plants, etc…

HOUSE FOR RENT
Location: Dandan
2-storey duplex house
3 bedroom 2 1/2 bathroom
semi-furnished, quiet & secure area,
semi oceanview, near Dandan Elem. School
$650.00 a month
Contact: 235-8389 (leave message on voice mail)

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FOR SALE
Very low mileage, clean and well maintained vehicles!
(1) 1997 Toyota T100 Pick-Up $5,300.00
(2) 2004 Ford Explorer XLT SUV.....$10,900.00 each
For more information, please call 322-2222

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LET US MAKE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE
*****SPARKLE*****
Cleaning services starting as low as $40 per cleaning.
All equipment and cleaning supplies provided.
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Contact Julie at 287-6542 to schedule an appointment.

FEEL LATTE KAFÉ
URGENTLY Looking for
Experienced COOK
Please apply in person at
FEEL LATTE KAFÉ
(Beach Road, across the Paseo de Marianas)
Open 11:00am – 3:30pm &
6:00pm – 10:00pm

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Starting as low as... **$25.00**
Call: 233-9889 or 483-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

Computer Repair
Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
17" Monitor – For Sale $80.00
233-5641
Open 7 Days a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

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Very low overhead. Monthly Rent.
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Please call: 287-0215 / 235-0215
Email: zp1974@yahoo.com

LOST GREEN BAG
- U.S. Passport – Adrian Joseph Castro
- Chinese Passport – Gui Hua Wang
- U.S. Passport – Jayden Joseph Castro
- Medic aid Card – Adrian Josepn Castro
- Driver's License - Gui Hua Wang Castro

Pls. call 256-2334 (No questions asked)

Have a Merry Christmas
PLANT A YELLOW FLAME TREE
3-6ft $20.00–$30.00
Call 322-5691•285-6626

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FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL
Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL
For Rent: 3 Bedroom House
Fully Furnished. In Tottotville, Koblerville. Please call 234-5459

FOR SALE
Pigs for Sale
Good for lechon ($2.50/lb.)
Please call 287-4568

TJM Lawn Care Services
WE OFFER
$30.00
per house 500 sqm
(negotiable)
Contact: Tahira S. Miah
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Cel: 287-8896

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AIRPORT WAREHOUSE
2 UNITS
4,800 sq. ft. each with Office and Washroom Facility
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P.O. BOX 1547, ROTA, MP 96951
PHONE: (670) 532-7242
EMAIL ADDRESS: email@rotacasino.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA NO.	POSITIONS	SALARY RANGE PER ANNUM	OPEN	CLOSE
RCGC-EA-001	Executive Director	Ung; 50,000.00 to 60,000.00	12/09/09	01/09/10
RCGC-EA-002	Administrative Officer	Ung; 36,000.00 to 42,000.00	12/09/09	01/09/10
RCGC-EA-003	Fiscal Officer	Ung; 36,000.00 to 42,000.00	12/09/09	01/09/10
RCGC-EA-004	Licensing Officer	Ung; 36,000.00 to 42,000.00	12/09/09	01/09/10

For more information about the position(s) being advertised, please stop by the Office of Rota Casino Gaming Commission at Tatachog to pick up an application or call us at the telephone number above.

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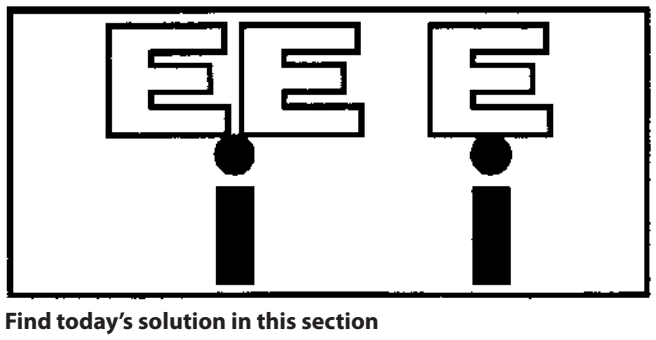
/s/ Justin S. Manglona
Chairman-Personnel Committee

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in this section

Pistons send 76ers to 11th straight loss

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Rodney Stuckey scored 27 points and hit the winner with 8.7 seconds left to lead the Detroit Pistons to a 90-86 win over Philadelphia on Wednesday, the 76ers' 11th straight loss.

Allen Iverson scored 11 points in his second game with the Sixers. He hit the tying jumper with 1:06 left that made it 86-86.

Stuckey had the ball stripped by Andre Iguodala, but he grabbed the loose ball and tossed it in for the go-ahead basket with 1 second left on the shot clock.

Iguodala went for the win, but his 3-point attempt was no good. He scored 18 points.

AP

Philadelphia 76ers' Allen Iverson, left, greets Detroit Pistons' Rodney Stuckey before their NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009, in Philadelphia.

Hawks 118, Bulls 83

At Atlanta, Jamal Crawford scored a season-high 29 points as Atlanta opened the second half with a 20-4 run.

The Bulls, who have lost four straight and nine of 10, remained close only in the first period. Atlanta pushed its lead to double digits for good on a jam by Josh Smith with 5:17 remaining in the first half.

Smith had 18 points, including an alley-oop jam.

Derrick Rose led Chicago with 19 points. James Johnson had 17—all in the final period—and John Salmons added 16.

Warriors 105, Nets 89

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Monta Ellis scored 14 of his 18 points in the second half as Golden State snapped a four-game losing streak.

Reserve C.J. Watson also scored 18 and former Nets center Mikki Moore had 16 on a series of dunks for the Warriors.

Brook Lopez had 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets, who were bidding for wins on consecutive nights after winning just once in their first 20 games. Devin Harris added 19 points but shot only 4 of 11, while Courtney Lee scored 15.

Trail Blazers 102, Pacers 91

At Indianapolis, Brandon Roy scored 29 points to lead Portland over the Pacers.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 20 points and eight rebounds, and Andre Miller scored 15 for the Trail Blazers (14-9), who snapped a four-game road losing streak.

Dahntay Jones led the Pacers with 19 points and rookie Tyler Hansbrough added 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Bucks 117, Raptors 95

At Milwaukee, rookie Brandon Jennings scored 22 points to lift slumping Milwaukee to a victory over Toronto.

Milwaukee, losers of eight of 10, snapped a four-game skid.

Chris Bosh had 26 points and 10 rebounds for Toronto.

Ersan Ilyasova and Roko Ukic had 17 points each, Luc Richard Mbah a Moute had 16, Luke Ridnour 15, Carlos Delfino 14 and Andrew Bogut 12 for the Bucks.

Hornets 97, Timberwolves 96

At Minneapolis, Chris Paul streaked past Jonny Flynn on an inbounds pass to hit a layup with 1.4 seconds left and lift New Orleans to a win.

Paul finished with 15 points and 14 assists, while Peja Stojakovic scored 21 points and reserve Marcus Thornton added 20 for New Orleans, which snapped a five-game road losing streak.

Al Jefferson had 17 points and a season-high 16 rebounds and Ryan Gomes scored 21 points for the Timberwolves.

Rockets 95, Cavaliers 85

At Houston, Aaron Brooks scored 27 points and Trevor Ariza scored 26 as Houston held LeBron James and Cleveland to one of its worst offensive performances.

James scored 27 points, but went only 8 for 21 from the field. No other Cleveland starter reached double figures and the Cavs matched their season-low point total. They outrebounded Houston 47-37, but committed 20 turnovers and mustered only 19 points in both the first and third quarters.

Shane Battier scored 14 points and played effective defense on James all night.

Spurs 118, Kings 106

At San Antonio, Richard Jefferson broke out of a slump with 23 points, including a dunk to cap a 14-point run at the end of the first half, as San Antonio ended a three-game skid.

Tony Parker had 18 points and 11 assists for the Spurs, who beat Sacramento for the second time this season and seventh consecutive meeting. Manu Ginobili added 20 points, including five in a key late-game run.

Omri Casspi scored 20 points to lead the Kings, who lost their fourth in a row and were playing their second game in two nights on the road.

Lakers 101, Jazz 77

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 27 points, and Pau Gasol had 19 points and 12 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers rolled off 19 consecutive points in the fourth quarter of their 10th straight victory.

Ron Artest scored 17 points for the Lakers, who improved to an NBA-best 17-3 by holding the Jazz to six points and two field goals in a comically one-sided fourth quarter.

Deron Williams scored 17 points for the Jazz, while Mehmet Okur and C.J. Miles scored 14 points each.

Forbes: Lakers most valuable NBA franchise

NEW YORK (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers are the NBA's most valuable team, and 12 others lost money in the 2008-09 season, according to Forbes magazine.

In its annual listing of the value of NBA teams, Forbes finds the Lakers to be worth $607 million, up 4 percent for the league champions. Second are the New York Knicks at $586 million, but that is a 4 percent drop. The Knicks led the rankings for the four previous seasons.

The Chicago Bulls ($511 million), Detroit Pistons ($479 million) and Cleveland Cavaliers ($476 million) round out the top five.

At the bottom of the 30-team rankings are the Milwaukee Bucks at $254 million. The league average worth is $367 million, down 4 percent, according to Forbes.

The teams losing money in the last 12 months are the Dallas Mavericks, Portland Trail Blazers, Orlando Magic, Atlanta Hawks, Sacramento Kings, Indiana Pacers, Charlotte Bobcats, New Jersey Nets, Minnesota Timberwolves, New Orleans Hornets, Memphis Grizzlies and Milwaukee Bucks.

Teams' average operating income was $7.8 million, with the Lakers at the top with $51.1 million, just ahead of the Bulls at $51 million.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in Garapan, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 003 D 16 (Formerly Block 1 Lot 16), as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 D 00 dated February 19, 1971, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry on the 1st day of March, 1971, as Document No. 869, and containing an area of 1,022 square meters, more or less, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$70,000.00**.

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Monday, December 28, 2009**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 24th day of November, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 09-038

"PROJECT MONITORING SERVICES"

The CNMI Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in **"MONITORING AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS, SATURDAY SCHOOL AND THE FEDERALLY FUNDED INNOVATIVE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AT THE 20 PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND 26 PRIVATE SCHOOLS."** The scope of work is available beginning November 27, 2009 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. at the COE Conference Room, 3rd floor Retirement Fund Building. Questions must be in writing and addressed to Tim Thornburgh, Federal Program Officer via fax to 670.664.3767 or e-mail to thornburght@gmail.com no later than December 21, 2009.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 09-038" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Thursday, December 24, 2009 at 10:30 A.M. Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Brewers land Wolf, Hawkins; Orioles get Millwood

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The winter meetings heated up even more Wednesday, with Milwaukee landing pitchers Randy Wolf and LaTroy Hawkins, Baltimore acquiring Kevin Millwood in a trade with Texas, and the Yankees completing the three-team, seven-player swap that brought them All-Star center fielder Curtis Granderson.

New York also re-signed postseason star Andy Pettitte, and Houston reeled in hard-throwing reliever Matt Lindstrom from the Florida Marlins on the next-to-last-day of the four-day annual session.

As always, money overshadowed everything, with some teams prepared to pay for top talent and others set to slice payroll.

"We are making some adjustments and it's a business decision," Detroit Tigers general manager Dave Dombrowski said after dealing Granderson to the Yankees and All-Star pitcher Edwin Jackson to the Diamondbacks.

Detroit obtained lefty reliever Phil Coke and outfield prospect Austin Jackson from the Yankees, plus touted young pitchers Max Scherzer and Daniel Schlereth from Arizona. The Diamondbacks also got right-hander Ian Kennedy from New York.

Baltimore will receive about $3 million from Texas along with Millwood, while the cash-strapped Rangers get a player to be named. The money offsets part of the former All-Star's $12 million salary.

"Our job is to identify motivated buyers and motivated sellers," said Andy MacPhail, Orioles president of baseball operations.

Millwood, who lives in Texas, heads to a team coming off its 12th straight losing season. He was 13-10 with a 3.67 ERA and three complete games this year.

Relief pitcher Chris Ray and a player to be named head to the Rangers, a club in the process of being sold. Ray, 28 next month, was 0-4 with a 7.27 ERA in 46 games and has struggled since elbow surgery two years ago.

Milwaukee, trying to rebound from an 80-82 record and third-place finish in the NL Central, agreed to a $29.75 million, three-year contract with Wolf and a $7.5 million, two-year deal with Hawkins. Both agreements are subject to completion of final details, two people familiar with the talks said, speaking on condition of anonymity because no announcements had been made.

Wolf, a 33-year-old left-hander, was 11-7 with a 3.23 ERA this year in the lone season of his second stint with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Hawkins, a right-hander who turns 37 on Dec. 21, went 1-4 with a 2.13 ERA and 11 saves for Houston.

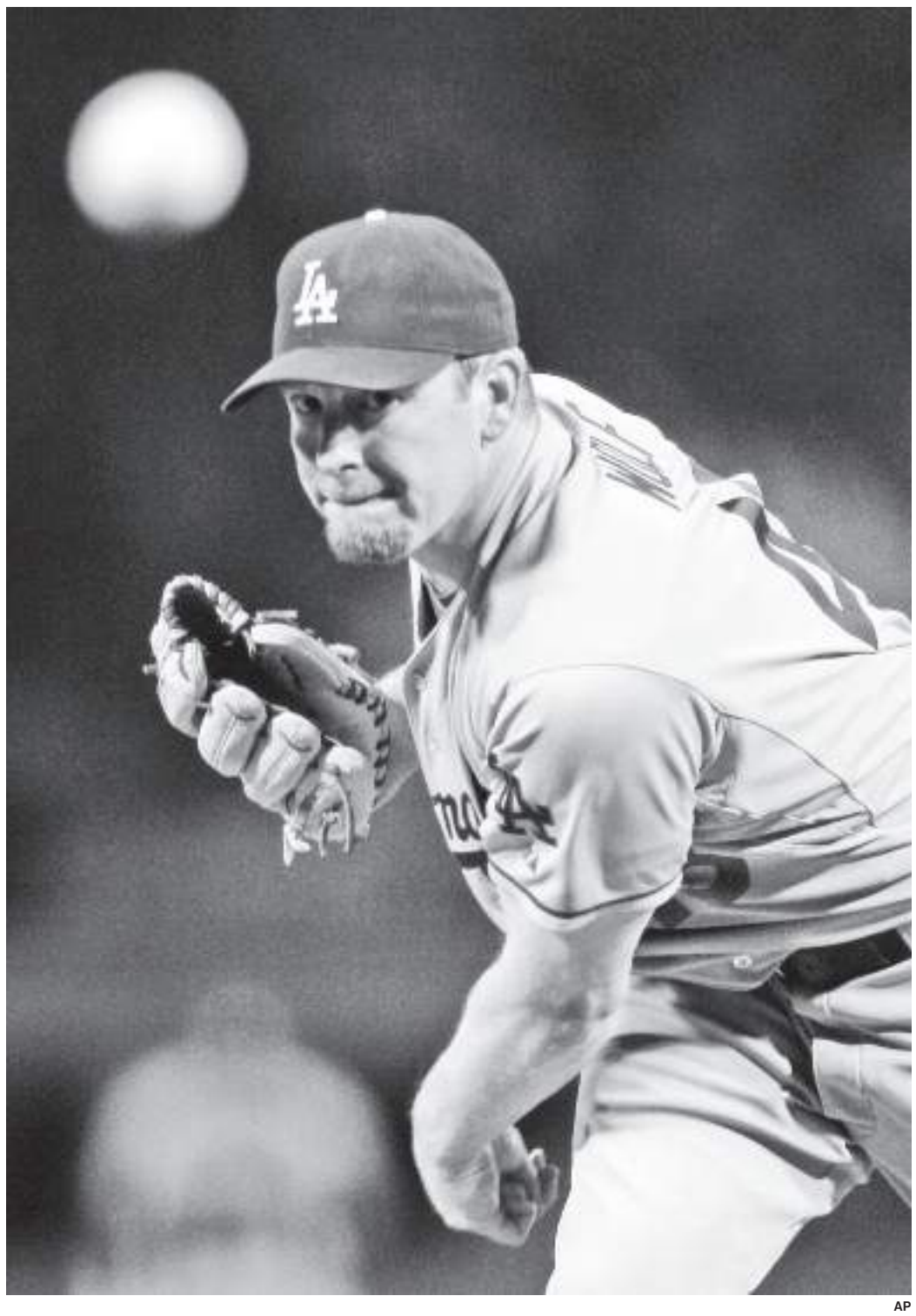
Pettitte got an $11.75 million, one-year contract, up from a $5.5 million base with $5 million in earned bonuses last season. The 37-year-old left-hander was 14-8 with a 4.16 ERA in 32 regular-season starts and 4-0 with a 3.52 ERA in five postseason starts. He became the first pitcher to start and win the clincher in all three postseason rounds.

"How could you finish any better?" said Pettitte, who contemplated retirement before deciding: "Let's do it another year."

After finishing off Pettitte's deal, New York general manager Brian Cashman completed the trade bringing Granderson to the Bronx. While the Yankees usually get deals started at the winter meetings, it's rare that they finalize them. Cashman didn't even bring a suit and went to the microphone wearing blue jeans.

"This is my first podium ever," Cashman whispered to Dombrowski.

Granderson faces an immediate issue in New York. His longtime number is No. 28, and Yankees manager Joe Girardi intends to switch from No. 27 to No. 28—signifying the Yankees' quest for their 28th World Series title next year.



AP

In this Oct. 19, 2009, file photo, Los Angeles Dodgers' Randy Wolf pitches against the Philadelphia Phillies in the first inning of Game 4 of the National League Championship baseball series in Philadelphia.

Growing up, he also wore Nos. 2 and 8

"So those numbers aren't options either," he said, knowing full well that the first belongs to Derek Jeter and the latter was retired for Yogi Berra and Bill Dickey.

Bigger stars than Granderson are available, but teams are wary of spending big money. The three most prominent free agents remained unsigned—pitcher John Lackey and outfielders Matt Holliday and Jason Bay.

"I don't think you can ever have too much pitching, so if you are going to make a financial commitment, certainly the pitching end of it is something you're going to consider," Los Angeles Angels manager Mike Scioscia said.

Toronto also is dangling ace Roy Halladay as trade bait.

"Right now it's kind of in limbo there," manager Cito Gaston said. "We don't really know possibilities."

For now, the pitching prices might be too expensive for the Yankees, who committed $243.5 million last winter for CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett. New York also must decide whether to re-sign left fielder Johnny Damon and designated hitter Hideki Matsui.

"Pitching is getting more expensive," Cashman said. "Listening to some of the price tags so far, might have to wait that thing out or refocus."

On other fronts, Florida got two low-level minor leaguers, right-hander Robert Bono and infielder Luis Bryan, for Lindstrom, who went 2-1 with 15 saves in 17 chances and a 5.89 ERA last season.

"He has a tremendous arm and has shown closer's stuff in the past," Astros general manager Ed Wade said. "He had some health issues last season, but we believe he'll bounce back."

Houston was talking with reliever Brandon Lyon, and the sides could have a preliminary agreement by Thursday, subject to a physical. Texas was speaking with pitcher Rich Harden, the Mets were negotiating with catcher Bengie Molina, and the agents for pitcher Aroldis Chapman said the Cuban defector will throw a bullpen session for teams next week in the Houston area.

Sanchez to sit vs Bucs, Clemens to start for Jets

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—The Sanchise is taking a seat this week, and he's not happy about it.

New York Jets coach Rex Ryan decided Wednesday that Mark Sanchez will not play at Tampa Bay on Sunday because of a sprained right knee, and Kellen Clemens will start in his place.

"It's just a frustrating part of this game," a clearly irritated Sanchez said. "I asked him if I could at least try to practice (Thursday) and he said, 'No way, because I know if you practice tomorrow, then you're going to play and we don't want to run any risk of further injury.' It's difficult to handle."

Ryan said he consulted with team doctors and made the call to sit Sanchez, who's "mad as a hornet" at him.

"He wants to play in the worst way and he's going to play," Ryan said. "It's just not going to be this week. I have a lot of confidence in Kellen Clemens and I think that instead of delaying this decision, I'm just going to make it now."

Sanchez sprained the posterior cruciate ligament in the knee during the third quarter of the Jets' 19-13 win over Buffalo in Toronto last Thursday. He said he's still not sure if the injury occurred on his dive for a first down, or a previous play. He didn't appear to be noticeably hobbled when he stepped up and down from the podium.

"I'd love to play," he said. "I think if this was the Super Bowl, I would definitely be playing."

Sanchez had started every game this season since beating out Clemens for the job. The injury came two days after the Jets brought in Yankees manager Joe Girardi to help Sanchez learn how to slide. Sanchez frustrated Ryan on the play as he was injured by diving headfirst, with the coach calling him a "knucklehead."

"It's Rex's decision right now and I'd love to play," Sanchez said when asked if he thought Ryan might have been sending a message to him by sitting him. Ryan said through a team spokesman that the decision was not punitive.

Sanchez didn't practice Monday or Wednesday, and is expected to get a fitted knee brace Thursday. He already wears a brace on the left knee from a previous injury.

"At first, I guess I was upset that he wouldn't even give me a chance to practice and try to wait until the last second," Sanchez said. "At the same time, I understand that Kellen needs all the reps as possible if he's going to start this week. That's totally fair to him, and I understand where Rex is coming from, but that doesn't necessarily mean I agree or I'm happy about it."

Ryan, who was optimistic about Sanchez's chances Monday, said there were no setbacks in the quarterback's recovery that swayed his decision. He added that Sanchez will be "shut down completely" and not travel to Tampa Bay.

"The last time I felt like this, I was a redshirt freshman where you don't travel to the game," Sanchez said. "It's just a weird feeling."

The Jets (6-6) got back in the AFC playoff mix by winning their last two games, and take on a Buccaneers team that has struggled to a 1-11 record. Ryan said the quality of the opponent was not a factor in deciding to go with Clemens, who'll make his ninth NFL start Sunday, and first since 2007 when he took over for a struggling Chad Pennington.

"I think I'd be a little bit more concerned if it was my first start ever," Clemens said, "but I have some experience under my belt."

Clemens came in after Sanchez was injured and was 1 for 2 for 14 yards, helping lead a scoring drive against Buffalo.

"You never like to see a teammate that's injured, but it's a good opportunity for me," Clemens said. "I'm excited to be out there playing again."

Clemens was drafted in the second round out of Oregon in 2006 and was considered the Jets' quarterback of the future. He sat for most of his rookie season, but started half the games the following year with mediocre results. Clemens barely got on the field last season with Brett Favre in town, and has only thrown three passes this year.

"It hasn't been an easy road sitting on the bench on Sundays," he said.

This is the last year on Clemens' contract, and there's some speculation that he won't be back next season—making this a chance to showcase himself.

"It's not about me," he said. "It's an opportunity to show for the last 13 weeks that I've been working hard and I didn't pack it in when Mark was named the starter. As far as other teams, it's about us going out and getting our seventh win and getting above .500 and getting one step closer to the playoffs."

Woman's 911 call from Woods' home: 'Hurry up'

OCOEE, Fla. (AP)—A panicking woman calls 911 from Tiger Woods' Orlando-area mansion, telling the dispatcher that her mother had collapsed.

"Oh my God! Hurry up," the woman says as a child is heard crying in the background.

Wood's mother-in-law, Barbro Holmberg, was rushed to a hospital early Tuesday with stomach pains. Although she was released about 11 hours later and returned to the pro golfer's house, the event touched off the second media frenzy in two weeks surrounding Woods' carefully guarded private life.

In a recording of the 911 call obtained by The Associated Press, the woman says, "She collapsed in the bathroom. What do I do?"

A few seconds later, the caller said her mother was breathing normally, talking and didn't appear to be hurt from her fall.

The caller wasn't identified. Woods' wife, Elin Nordegren, has a twin sister, but it wasn't clear whether she was at the house.

Health Central is the same hospital where Woods was treated after he crashed his sport utility vehicle outside his home in a gated community in nearby Windermere last month.

Holmberg, 57, a Swedish politician, arrived in the U.S. a few days ago, hospital spokesman Dan Yates said, just as her daughter grappled with fallout from the crash and the ensuing statement from Woods that he had extramarital "transgressions."

Woods and his wife have a 2-year-old daughter and an infant son.

Family members visited Holmberg in the hospital, Yates said, but he did not specify whether Woods or his wife came. The family hired additional security to keep the media away.

Yates would not speculate on what caused Holmberg's stomach problems or whether she had suffered previously from that type of distress. He said she was released about 11 hours after she arrived and returned to Woods' home. Holmberg's spokeswoman, Eva Malmborg, said she wasn't aware that Holmberg suffered from any disease.

Holmberg was expected back at her job as Gavleborg county governor in central-east Sweden next week, said her deputy, Olov Rydberg.

Intense media scrutiny has followed the world's No. 1 golfer since he hit a hydrant and a tree Nov. 27 about 2:25 a.m. Woods was cited for careless driving and fined $164.

Since then, Woods has vanished from prime-time TV advertising. Data from Nielsen Co. shows there have been no advertisements in prime-time featuring Woods since Nov. 29.

The research firm said the last prime-time ad to appear featuring the golfer was a 30-second ad that day for the Gillette Co. That commercial aired eight times during November, spokesman Aaron Lewis said.

There have been no other commercials since then on all broadcast networks and 19 cable networks during the evening news, prime-time, late-night and during weekend sports, he said.

Attention on Woods didn't let up Tuesday, when dozens of live trucks, camera crews and reporters camped out on the hospital's lawn, awaiting word of Holmberg's condition.

"I think she understands," Yates said of Holmberg.

The accident—and Woods' refusal to answer questions about it—fueled speculation about a possible dispute between him and Elin.

Just days before the crash, a National Enquirer story alleged Woods had been seeing a New York nightclub hostess, Rachel Uchitel, who has denied it. Uchitel told OK! magazine for editions hitting newsstands Thursday: "In every story, you need a villain and a hero. I've been characterized as a villain. People have called me homewrecker, gold digger, tramp, whore. I make mistakes, but I'm not those things. I have very good qualities. When you're judged by the nation, it's really difficult. It's horrible."

After the crash, *Us Weekly* reported that a Los Angeles cocktail waitress named Jaimee Grubbs claims she had a 31-month affair with Woods.

Last week, Woods issued a statement saying he had let his family down with unspecified "transgressions" that he regrets with "all of my heart." He did not elaborate.

A police report released Monday showed that a Florida trooper who suspected Woods was driving under the influence sought a subpoena for the golfer's blood test results from the hospital, but prosecutors rejected the petition for insufficient information.

A witness, who wasn't identified in the report, told trooper Joshua Evans that Woods had been drinking alcohol earlier. The same witness also said Woods had been prescribed two drugs, the sleep aid Ambien and the painkiller Vicodin.

The report did not say who the witness was but added it was the same person who pulled Woods from the vehicle after the accident. Woods' wife has told police that she used a golf club to smash the back windows of the Cadillac Escalade to help her husband out.

Tiger's Swedish in-laws used to media spotlight

STOCKHOLM (AP)—When images of Barbro Holmberg being rushed to the hospital were broadcast around the world, it was the first glimpse many had ever had of Tiger Woods' mother-in-law.

Back home in Sweden, however, Elin Nordegren's parents are quite used to the spotlight.

Holmberg is a well-known politician in Sweden and the Scandinavian country's former migration minister—and was formerly married to a prominent journalist and author. As such, an ambulance trip from Wood's Orlando-area mansion—or from anywhere else—would have made headlines in Sweden even without the media frenzy surrounding the world's No. 1 golfer after a late-night crash and reports of infidelity.

"I think she's used to it," said Olov Rydberg, who serves as Holmberg's deputy in her current job as county governor in Gavleborg in central Sweden.

Of course, the rather unusual circumstances meant it was a top story in nearly every Swedish media outlet—some of which have flown their own reporters to Florida to report on the ongoing saga.

But Rydberg said Holmberg has other things to worry about rather than her newfound global fame. While she was in the hospital, Swedish wireless equipment maker LM Ericsson said it was closing a plant in the Gavleborg region that employs 856 people.

Rydberg said he spoke to Holmberg on the phone, and that her concerns were focused on the plant workers.

"I haven't really noticed anything (concerning the media attention)," he said. "We've just talked about work."

Holmberg was treated for stomach pains and was released 11 hours later.

Nordegren's father, Thomas Nordegren, is a radio talk show host and spent nearly a decade working as a foreign correspondent for radio and TV. He has been hounded for comments about his daughter's marriage ever since the early-morning car crash on Nov. 27, but has refused to divulge any details.

Meanwhile, the globally broadcast images of Holmberg on a stretcher and the details published from the 911 call from Woods' house has caused Swedish media to debate to the ethics of digging into someone's private life.

"With what right do you publish each word of a phone call where a panicking daughter is calling for ambulance after her mom collapsed in the bathroom?" Jan Helin, the editor-in-chief of Sweden's largest newspaper Aftonbladet, wrote Wednesday on the tabloid's Web site.

He added, however, that Swedes have an added interest in the Woods story that goes beyond the worldwide fascination with a superstar athlete.

Final CWGA tourney of year this Saturday

The final monthly tournament of the CNMI Women's Golf Association will be held this Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

According to the club's secretary Lorraine Babauta, show time for the December tourney is set at 11:30am and tee time is scheduled an hour later at 12:30pm at the west course of the Kagman golf venue.

For more information, call Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, and Bennet Seman at 483-0126.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

December King and Queen of the Lanes set

The Saipan Bowling Association and Budweiser will host the year's final King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament this Sunday and Monday, Dec. 13 and 14, at the Saipan Bowling Center in Oleai.

Sunday's roll-off for the December tilt begins at 3pm, while Monday's competition starts at 6pm. Registration starts 30 minutes prior to game time. Awarding ceremonies immediately follow the end of competition on Monday.

The competition is exclusive for SBA members with participants limited to the first 60 entries for each day.

Members have the option to bowl on the Sunday or Monday, or on both days, provided that the $15 entry fee is paid. Bowlers who did not bowl on Sunday will be given priority for the Monday shift. Only the higher score will count for the tournament. All participants have to pay the $15 SBA annual membership fee.

The champion is guaranteed $100 in prize money but it could go up to as much $150 depending on the number of participants. Women participants will only have separate prizes if there are at least 10 entries.

Youth bowlers (12 to 18 years old), meanwhile, will duke it out in the Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament in Day 1 of the monthly competition. Entry fee is $10 for the Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes.

Youth bowlers must also pay the annual SBA youth membership fee of $10 if they wish to qualify for the annual roll off.

The Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament aims to crown 12 monthly champions through the course of the year.

For early registration and payment, see or contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 or email zapanta@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

DCCA

From Page 36

Rasa also hitting timely shots.

Connie's triple gave DCCA the lead for the first time since the 2-0 count in the first period. DCCA was forced to keep Connie in the game when Taj Van Buren sprained his right ankle midway in the final canto after colliding with Jose Tumaquip. Connie pulled up for a triple way beyond the rainbow arc, surprising not only her foes, but her teammates, who looked up on the scoreboard and saw DCCA ahead, 67-66, with 3:31 left on the clock.

PSS tried to regain the lead, but failed, as Tumaquip missed a couple of triples and Peter Mendiola muffed a few undergoal stabs.

Rangamar made it a 69-66 count, entering the final two minutes, after he drilled a putback on his own miss in a fastbreak play. Peter Camacho then hit two short jumpers in the ensuing plays, 75-68, with less than a minute left in the game. Rasa also scored four points in the last two minutes to complete DCCAs' come-from-behind win.

Rasa paced DCCA with 19 points, while Peter Camacho finished with 16. Rangamar chipped in 10 points, making eight of them in the third period to tie the game at 56-all.

Tumaquip led PSS with 15 markers. He hit back-to-back triples at the start of the fourth quarter to give PSS a 62-56 lead, before Rangamar and Connie Camacho alternately hounded him in the remaining half of that canto. Joe Villacrusis added 14, but was scoreless in the fourth period, as he was left on the bench.

PSS enjoyed a 10-point lead in the first period, 21-11, as it limited DCCA to only three field goals. DCCA then grabbed the lead at halftime, 26-19, behind Melody Matson and Rasa, who tallied six points apiece in the second quarter.

PSS reclaimed control of the match at the start of the third period with Villacrusis hitting his marks before Rangamar led a comeback late in that canto and tied the game.

In the second match, IT&E won over Docomo, but details of the game were unavailable as the scoresheet has yet to be released as of press time.

OLOPAI

From Page 36

RGA events for the year, earning him the Sid K. Peter award. The Sid K. Peter plum is given to an RGA member who played the most rounds in a year.

Olopai attributed his victory in the club championship to his frequent participation in various tournaments. He said by joining all of RGA's 24 qualifying events and other golf tournaments on Saipan, he gets to improve his game and adjust to every course he played in.

The RGA Club Championship was played at the longer east course of Laolao Bay and had Olopai beating the 11 other monthly winners, namely Cui Xian Lai (January Ace), Asterio Tawanpiy (March), Ray Tigilau (April), Nick Sablan (May), Sonny Flores (June), Jay Choi (July), Jesse Seman (August), Joe Saures (September), and Ben Duenas (October), Tom Tebuteb (Novermber), and Joe Wabol (December)

The monthly aces and other winners received their trophies during the awards ceremony at the Carolinian Utt on Sunday.

The Lowest Net trophy went to Bae Yong Man, who set the lowest new average of the year with a 74.5 norm in 10 tournaments.

Tigilau, meanwhile, had closest to the pin shots on hole Nos. 6 and 11 in last Sunday's Club Championship. Duenas and Tawanpiy had the same shots on hole No. 15 and 4, respectively.

DIAMOND

From Page 36

was unstoppable in the fourth period, drilling all his 23 points in that canto. His fastbreak layup broke the last deadlock, 102-100, and then he stole the ball from Estolas, paving the way for a Darwin Barbo layup that gave Diamond a104-100 lead, going into the last 34 seconds of the game.

Saipan Fresh cut the lead to one, 103-104, after Jun Estolas, who also came in late in the third after playing for Docomo at the Ada gym, canned a triple.

Esdrelon gave Diamond more room, 106-103, when he went 2-for-2 from the 15-foot line after drawing a foul from Lerio Pagarao in the ensuing play. Esdrelon added one more free throw and Mel Capalad also split his charities to seal the win for Diamond.

Both teams were a bit tentative in their game at the start of the match due to the absence of their key players. Saipan Fresh was without Estolas and Ryan Sanciangco in the first half, allowing Diamond to take a 43-36 halftime lead.

Sans Esdrelon, Diamond leaned on Talania, J.R. Barrios, and Capalad in the first half, before Pagarao exploded for 19 points in the third period to grab the lead, 70-65. Pagarao then went cold in the fourth, missing several shots and committing a couple of turnovers, while Esdrelon took charge and lifted his team to the three-point win.

In the masters division, Jun Tabora and Ariel Jinang combined for 17 points in the fourth quarter to lead University of Loyola to a 91-88 victory over Cool Water.

UoL fell behind by as much as nine points in the third period, but drew big baskets from Jinang and Tabora in the fourth to escape with the win. Tabora had two field goals in the final canto and went 5-for-6 from the foul line, while Jinang made four two-pointers.

Jinang led all scorers with 28 points, while Tabora finished with 23. Ed Cosino tallied 18.

Masters

University of Loyola 91 – Jinang 28, Tabora 24, Cosino 19, De La Torre 9, Puri 7, Moran 2, Salazar 2.

Cool Water 88 – Montano 24, Espinosa 16, Pablo 14, Moreno 14, Galulu 10, Lopez 4, Delfin 2, Buniag 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-21, 40-40, 61-65, 91-88.

Open

Diamond 108 – Esdrelon 23, Talania 18, Barrios 15, M. Capalad 11, Guiab 11, Artates 10, Mercurio 6, Barbo 5, Fernandez 4, Montano 2, W. Capalad 2.

Saipan Fresh 105 – Pagarao 33, Gapor 27, Estolas 12, Factor 14, Opone 11, De Guzman 3, Tumaquip 3, Sanciangco 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-16, 43-36, 60-67, 108-105.

DCCA 77 – Rasa 19, P. Camacho 16, Rangamar 10, Iginoef 9, Van Buren 9, Matson 6, C. Camacho 3.

PSS 71 – Tumaquip 15, Villacrusis 14, Manibusan 9, Ruluked 7, Mendiola 6, Coldeen 6, Aughenbaugh 5, Mendez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-11, 26-19, 56-56, 77-71.

TIGER

From Page 36

Woods. And Oprah didn't invite Woods on her show to talk about his swing.

Speaking of swings, since Tiger only plays with Titleist clubs, can we assume Erin Nordegren busted out his Escalade's windows with a Titleist? Would she like its swing?

Speaking of brands, Gatorade dropped one Tiger commercial and none of his commercials have run on national television since Nov. 29.

Speaking of television, David Letterman, who just had his own scandal, said he wishes Tiger would stop calling him for advice, adding "President Obama is sending troops to Afghanistan. Hell, he ought to be sending them to Tiger Woods' house."

Speaking of Tiger Woods' house, he is believed to be holed up there alone. Wife left him after she heard about No. 7, the porn star (I am sure you all remember Holly Sampson in "Lingerie or Bust"). Apparently after learning of his infidelity, Erin bought a $2-million house on an island in Sweden accessible only by boat.

Speaking of moving out, one website had a poll on what Erin should do. Eighty percent voted for her to get out. I voted "too tough to say." I'm a minority.

Speaking of getting out, that's what Tiger did to his best friend by cancelling his visit to be the best men at his buddy's wedding this weekend.

Speaking of weddings, I really do not understand why Tiger would want to get married if he wants to play around. As a bachelor, he has it made in the shade with the babes in spades.

Speaking of bachelors, Hugh Hefner said he was surprised that people were surprised by all the affairs Tiger had. I wasn't surprised to hear a playboy say that.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	17	4	.810	—
Toronto	10	14	.417	8 1/2
New York	7	15	.318	10 1/2
Philadelphia	5	17	.227	12 1/2
New Jersey	2	20	.091	15 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	17	4	.810	—
Atlanta	15	6	.714	2
Miami	11	9	.550	5 1/2
Charlotte	9	11	.450	7 1/2
Washington	7	12	.368	9

Central Division

Cleveland	15	7	.682	—
Milwaukee	10	11	.476	4 1/2
Detroit	9	12	.429	5 1/2
Chicago	7	13	.350	7
Indiana	6	13	.316	7 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	15	7	.682	—
Houston	12	9	.571	2 1/2
San Antonio	10	9	.526	3 1/2
New Orleans	10	11	.476	4 1/2
Memphis	9	12	.429	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	16	6	.727	—
Portland	14	9	.609	2 1/2
Utah	12	9	.571	3 1/2
Oklahoma City	11	9	.550	4
Minnesota	3	19	.136	13

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	17	3	.850	—
Phoenix	15	7	.682	3
L.A. Clippers	9	12	.429	8 1/2
Sacramento	9	12	.429	8 1/2
Golden State	7	14	.333	10 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Detroit 90, Philadelphia 86
Portland 102, Indiana 91
Atlanta 118, Chicago 83
Golden State 105, New Jersey 89
Milwaukee 117, Toronto 95
New Orleans 97, Minnesota 96
San Antonio 118, Sacramento 106
Houston 95, Cleveland 85
L.A. Lakers 101, Utah 77

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, DEN	22	226	186	656	29.8
Bryant, LAL	19	205	121	549	28.9
Durant, OKC	20	192	154	562	28.1
James, CLE	21	202	153	588	28.0
Wade, MIA	20	176	171	541	27.1
Nowitzki, DAL	22	208	162	594	27.0
Ellis, GOL	20	193	96	494	24.7
Granger, IND	17	130	102	414	24.4
Bosh, TOR	23	189	174	558	24.3
Johnson, ATL	20	167	69	429	21.5
Boozer, UTA	20	170	85	425	21.3
Jennings, MIL	20	157	65	422	21.1
Roy, POR	22	155	118	455	20.7
Gay, MEM	20	159	78	411	20.6
Arenas, WAS	19	135	86	388	20.4
Evans, SAC	19	139	95	384	20.2
Harrington, NYK	22	156	88	435	19.8
Iguodala, PHL	21	146	89	410	19.5
Lopez, NJN	21	149	105	403	19.2
Duncan, SAN	16	121	64	306	19.1

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	99	151	.656
Howard, ORL	129	199	.648
Oden, POR	92	152	.605
Gasol, MEM	110	183	.601
Hilario, DEN	115	194	.593
Bynum, LAL	123	213	.577
Paul, NOR	97	169	.574
Lee, NYK	162	283	.572
Horford, ATL	111	195	.569
Landry, HOU	123	217	.567

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Wallace, CHA	20	47	200	247	12.4
Bosh, TOR	23	93	190	283	12.3
Howard, ORL	21	79	174	253	12.0
Noah, CHI	19	78	143	221	11.6
Camby, LAC	21	57	175	232	11.0
Boozer, UTA	20	41	177	218	10.9
Haywood, WAS	19	86	120	206	10.8
Duncan, SAN	16	50	123	173	10.8
Okafor, NOR	20	63	142	205	10.3
Lee, NYK	22	52	168	220	10.0

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	22	242	11.0
Williams, UTA	18	180	10.0
Paul, NOR	12	119	9.9
Rondo, BOS	21	193	9.2
Kidd, DAL	22	196	8.9
James, CLE	21	173	8.2
B. Davis, LAC	21	148	7.0
Westbrook, OKC	20	137	6.9
Arenas, WAS	19	124	6.5
Calderon, TOR	22	140	6.4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

UBA STANDINGS

Advance	1	0
Prospect	1	0
Ol'Aces	1	0
Diamond	1	0
Cholos	0	1
Hoopaholics	0	1
Noni Saipan	0	1
Trinity	0	1

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Island Rebels	2	0
San Roque	2	0
Team Fuegu	1	1
SaiPal	1	0
Lancheros	1	0
Chura	1	0
Natibu	1	0
6-Pack	1	1
Ramblers	1	1
Red Eye	1	1
Go For Broke	1	1
Man Amigos	1	1
Team Familia	1	1
G-Ballers	0	1
Berdax	0	1
Freedom Air Flyers	0	1
Blazers	0	1
Ur Balls	0	1
Calikano-Falcons	0	1
Hitz	0	0
X-Terminators	0	2

SBA STANDINGS

Agingan Division

Utopia NTT Docomo Hustlers	93	26
Jonny's IT&E Voyagers	92	27
D' Pirates Huwa	68	51
Jonny's Home Boys	59	60
Round Perfect Spotters	53	66

Obyan Division

Wild Bill's Shark Attack	64	55
USSP Fotten Palau	54	65
USSP Watever	49	70
D' Pirates 8 Ballers	39	80
VFW Sentinel	24	95

Ol'Aces, Diamond Fixers win debuts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four more teams debuted in the Inaugural 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League with Ol'Aces and Diamond Fixers outclassing separate foes on Wednesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Diamond played in the first game and downed Cholos, 66-63, while Ol'Aces defeated Hoopaholics in the second match, 84-79.

Both teams started slow in the opening game, as Diamond and Cholos players were extra cautious at the Garapan court, which was a bit moist and slippery as it rained before the match began.

Cholos benefited from a low-scoring first period, taking a 13-10 lead, and padding the lead to double digits at halftime, 33-22, when Reynard Aranda started the second quarter with back-to-back triples to lead the breakaway.

Cholos' fortune changed in the second half when Diamond's Elmer Esdrelon anchored the team's recovery and tied the game at the end of the third period, 46-all. Esdrelon made nine points in the third, while Tim Wesley added seven to force a deadlock.

Melvin Capalad then took the cudgels for Diamond in the payoff period, nailing 11 of his 13 points in the final quarter to lift his team to a three-point win. Capalad made 11 of Diamond's last 12 points in the fourth canto.

In the second game, Ol'Aces also rebounded from a slow start to beat Hoopaholics.

Ol'Aces and Hoopaholics had players playing their second game of the evening, as the former's cagers suited up for DCCA in the government/business caging over at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and the latter's for PSS.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ol'Aces Jack Lizama goes for a reverse layup against Hoopaholics during their game in the UBA caging on Wednesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

In their "early rematch," Hoopaholics took a 19-13 lead in the first quarter, but could not hang on to the lead, as Ol'Aces had more fresh legs to seize the driver's seat in the second period and steal the win.

Ol'Aces' Peter Camacho, Elias Rangamar, and Romeo Iginoef sat on the bench most of the way and allowed young guns Pete Iguel, Jack Lizama, and Dan Barcinas to do the damage for the team. Barcinas fired a game-high 26 points and Iguel and Lizama chipped in 13 and 12 markers, respectively.

With Ol'Aces' younger players active on offense, the team grabbed the lead at halftime, 39-32, and never looked back.

Dave Sablan paced Hoopaholics with 21 points, but failed to get support from his teammates, who simply did not have enough juice left in their second game of the night.

Besides having a tired crew, Hoopaholics also missed a couple of players, who suited up for Docomo in the government/business caging at the same time they played Ol'Aces.

First Game

Diamond 66 – Esdrelon 16, M. Capalad 13, Barrios 9, W. Capalad 8, Westley 8, Artates 6, Mercurio 4.

Cholos 63 – Aranda 14, Kapileo 12, Jung 10, Mendiola 7, Lizama 6, Baculod 5, George 4.

Scoring by quarters: 10-13, 33-22, 46-46, 66-63.

Second Game

Ol'Aces 84 – Barcinas 26, Iguel 13, Lizama 12, White 12, Omar 7.

Hoopaholics 79 – D. Sablan 21, Manibusan 15, J. Sablan 11, Mendiola 7, Cruz 2, Mendez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-19, 39-32, 58-48, 84-79.

Hustlers, Voyagers in neck-and-neck battle

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NTT Docomo Hustlers pose for a group photo during a break in their game against D' Pirates Huwa on Tuesday at D'Pirates Bar in Oleai.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The race for the championship in the Agingan division between NTT Docomo Hustlers and IT&E Voyagers is too close to call with a week left before the 2009 SBA Budweiser Open 8-Ball League concludes.

Only a win separates the Hustlers from the Voyagers, following their identical 6-1 victories in Week 17. The Hustlers downed D'Pirates Huwa, 6-1, to improve to a 93-26 record. The Voyagers hold a 92-27 mark after beating Jonny's Home Boys.

Despite the loss, D' Pirates Huwa remained in third place with its 68-51 record, while Jonny's Home Boys dropped to fourth (59-60). Completing the Agingan division is Round Two Perfect Spotters, who are at the bottom of the team standings with a 53-66 mark.

In the Obyan division, Wild Bill's Shark Attack virtually clinched the championship after shutting out D' Pirates 8 Ballers, 7-0. Shark Attack now has a 64-55 record, 10 wins ahead of second-running USSP Fotten Palau (54-65).

USSP Fotten Palau kept the No. 2 spot and distanced itself from sister team USSP Watever after a 5-2 victory over VFW Sentinel. USSP Watever failed to overtake USSP Fotten Palau, as the former only pulled off a 4-3 win over Round Two Perfect Spotters to gain a 49-70 mark.

With their losses in Week 17, D' Pirates 8 Ballers and VFW Sentinel are still at the last two spots in the team standings in the Obyan division.

Week 17 of the league featured a nine-run the rack performance from Nolan Cultura and eight from Jerry Soriano. Chester Hamoy, Jojo Talibong, and Erwin Gomez had three each, while Patrick Taitano, Taylor Watanabe, and Bernard Kileleman made two apiece.

John Mongami led Week 17 in 8-ball on break with his three, while Marlito Baisaule, Hamoy, and Talibong recorded one each.

Shirley's tops 'One-Day Bowling Slam'

Shirley's Coffee Shop rolled its way to the championship in last Sunday's 2nd Annual Bowling Tournament organized by the Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants.

The team made up of MIFICPA members Art Macaspac, Marlon Estigoy, and Irene Santiago as well as guest players Raymond Angeles and Roger Vales knocked down a total of 2,419 pinfalls to take home the overall title.

Shirley's victory in the "One-Day Bowling Slam" held at the Capital Bowling Center was led by Angeles with his 554 pinfalls, which was good for first among individual bowlers. Vales was 55 pins off the CNMI national bowler's pace with his 499, but his score was enough for second place in the high score category.

Macaspac (460), Estigoy (335), and Santiago (399) also did their share to help Shirley's win the championship. Incidentally, Macaspac's pinfall total was second best for male accountants trailing only the 469 of Aon Insurance's Robert Reyes.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan finished second in the team category with its 2,337 pinfalls. It was led by Christy Villaflor, who knocked down 472 pinfalls—tops for female accountants.

Tony Verdaguer (479), Jerry Kaneshi (430), Yho Villavicencio (416), and June Kaneshi (246) make up the rest of the players for Fiesta.

Third place, meanwhile, went to White Coconut after its players managed 2,308 pinfalls. While Coconut players include Edgar Deang (409), Mar Masilungan (403), Jared Gutierrez (428), and Nikko Gutierrez (364).

The Top 3 teams pocketed prize money with Shirley's getting $100, Fiesta $75, and White Coconut $50.

A total of 11 teams took part in the "One-Day Bowling Slam." Other teams, with their scores in parenthesis, were as follows: Aon Insurance (2,307); L&T International (2,293); IT&E (2,292); Transamerica/MBI (2,274); RNV/Villaroyal/PNB (2,255); Y's (2,252); Seabridge (2,250); and Rob Harrel Foundation (2,250).

In the individual awards, Rose Soledad of IT&E finished second to Villaflor in the high score for female accountants with her 442 pinfalls.

Teddy Orbeta of and Ferdie Santos of L&T, meanwhile, came in first and second in the accountants' high game scratch for Game 1 with their 177 and 138, respectively.

Villavicencio was *numero uno* in the Game 1 high game scratch for women with her 150, while Reyes (193) and Orbeta (166) won the high scratch for men in Game 2.

Villaflor and Soledad were the Game 2 winners for high game scratch for women with their 161 and 154 pinfalls.

A total of 58 players took part in MIFICPA's 2nd Annual Bowling Tournament. The event was primarily sponsored by IT&E. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A total of 58 players took part in last Sunday's 2nd Annual Bowling Tournament organized by the Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants.

San Roque gains share of lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

San Roque cruised to its second victory in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League, following a 10-5 triumph over Advance X-Terminators on Wednesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The win puts San Roque in a tie for first place with Island Rebels, while the loss was Advance's second in as many games, leaving the latter at the bottom of the team standings in the 21-team league.

San Roque boosted its chance to have a 2-0 start in the league after allowing Advance to score only one run in the first five innings with Rudy Sablan reaching home plate in the second inning on X-Terminators' error.

After five innings, San Roque was ahead 9-1, and had already scored two homers, one each from Wally Emul Jr. and Chad Atalig.

Advance tried to recover in the last two innings, but failed after a three-run top of the sixth, San Roque's defense hung on at the top of the seventh, giving up only one run to X-Terminators.

SaiPal 17, Red Eye

In the second game, SaiPal had a rousing debut in the league, whipping Red Eye, 17-3.

The match ended after only four innings as a 10-run top of the first was enough for SaiPal to take control of the game en route to an easy win.

MacQuin Masaharu went 2-for-2 for SaiPal and had three RBIs. Payton Sakuma and Gloyd Martin had similar 2-for-3 performance at the plate and recorded two RBIs each and one triple apiece.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Blazers' J.P. Flores waits for the pitch during their game against 6-Pack in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League on Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Red Eye, which dropped to a 1-1 slate, scored only in the first and second inning with Noki Torres making it home at the bottom of the first on a SaiPal error and Swain Cangco drilling a solo homer in the second inning.

Go for Broke 17, Team Fuegu 3

The third game also ended shortly, as Go for Broke needed only five innings to thwart Team Fuegu, 17-3.

Alfred Hocog went only 2-for-4, but drove in three runners, while Vicente and Ken Pangelinan added two RBIs apiece.

Go for Broke made six runs apiece in the first and second inning to dictate the tempo of the game and gain its first win.

Team Fuegu, which debuted with a 16-15 win over 6-Pack, failed to make it back-to-back after scoring only one run each in the first three innings. Go for Broke shut out Team Fuegu in the last two innings to end the latter's hope for a comeback.

Ol'Aces, Diamond Fixers win debuts

Four more teams debuted in the Inaugural 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League with Ol'Aces and Diamond Fixers outclassing separate foes on Wednesday at the Garapan Basketball Court. 35

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Sports

Pistons send 76ers to 11th straight loss

Rodney Stuckey scored 27 points and hit the winner with 8.7 seconds left to lead the Detroit Pistons to a 90-86 win over Philadelphia on Wednesday, the 76ers' 11th straight loss. 31

DCCA, IT&E inch closer to finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and IT&E moved a step away from advancing to the finals of the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League after recording contrasting wins on Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

DCCA pulled off a 77-71 victory over Public School System in the first match to move into the winner's bracket semifinals against IT&E, which clobbered NTT Docomo in the second game.

IT&E and DCCA will battle for the first finals berth on Dec. 15. Docomo and PSS dropped to the loser's bracket and need to win against Tinian and pennant champion Hyatt Regency Saipan, respectively, to keep their finals bids alive.

DCCA stole the victory in the last three and a half minutes of the game with siblings Connie and Peter Camacho making crucial baskets and Elias Rangamar and Ponce

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
DCCA's Elias Rangamar, center, drives against PSS' Bob Coldeen, right, and Peter Mendiola during their playoff game in the government/business caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium on Wednesday.

Diamond edges Saipan Fresh, UoL wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Elmer Esdrelon played three games in one night, making his final stop at the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League and leading Diamond Ali'i to a thrilling 108-105 win over Saipan Fresh on Wednesday at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

Esdrelon, who first played for Diamond Fixers in the UBA caging at the Garapan Basketball Court before moving to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to suit up for IT&E in the government/business caging, started playing for Ali'i in the closing minutes of the third period.

He struggled at the beginning, but

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Diamond Ali'i's Elmer Esdrelon, right, challenges the defense of Saipan Fresh Market's Lerio Pagarao during their game in the PILCOWA caging on Wednesday at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

Olopai caps perfect season with RGA Club Championship victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tars Olopai's perfect season in the Refaluwasch Golf Association had a fitting ending when he ruled the RGA Club Championship on Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The 8-handicapper Olopai shot a gross 77 for a net 69 to top the club championship and hoist the coveted Placido M. Tagabuel trophy.

Olopai qualified for the club championship after winning the February Ace. He never missed a single qualifying tournament and ended up playing in 24

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Tars Olopai shows the Placido M. Tagabuel trophy he won during the 2009 RGA Club Championship on Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tiger beat

According to Google Zeitgeist which ranks top Internet web searches Tiger Woods has been the top topic of interest the last two weeks. More people are following this saga than they would a golf tournament as each day brings more titillating revelations. If Tiger Woods was famous before, he is more famous now.

Mainstream media columnist Jason Whitlock criticized the media for making such a big deal about this affair(s). He then spent the rest of his column on Tiger's troubles.

Personally I am fascinated by the sordid mess in the same way housewives love soap operas. This is a true story about sex, money, and good looking people, movie-making matter.

Yesterday Tiger's mother-in-law was taken by ambulance from his home. The day before came news of his possible OD. The day before that, another alleged hookup, raising the number up to eight in U.S. reports and 10 in British reports that include two women in England.

All the women Tiger is alleged to have sex with (one says she did not) are hot except the waffle house waitress in Orlando. Growing up in the Deep South, I admit I went to more waffle houses than I should and can tell you their waitresses are not hot.

Besides pictures of all the girls which now go by the number in which they were discovered ("Did you hear what No. 5 said about Tiger's performance?"), the Internet is filled with all kinds of creative additives to this modern day tragedy.

How this will affect Tiger's chase to beat Jack Nicklaus' record of 18 major golf championships is essentially the only sport story here, but non-sports issues dominate Internet hits on Tiger

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OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2